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Further Reportage on Quadrilateral Talks

Tokyo 'Will Slash' Whiskey Tariffs

OW0707091993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 7 KYODO—Japan has indicated it will slash the tariff on imported scotch whiskey by as much as 170 yen a liter, almost a 50 percent reduction, negotiators from the European Community (EC) said Wednesday [7 July]. An EC official, noting that Britain sells 10 million bottles of whiskey in Japan a year, said, "that's a lot of money."

A British Government official told a news briefing that the negotiations, involving trade officials from Japan, the United States, Canada and the EC, have "achieved good progress" so far.

The talks, which coincided with the opening of the July 7-9 summit in Tokyo of leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations, are aimed at producing a package of market opening measures for presentation in Geneva to the ongoing Uruguay Round of trade talks.

The official said Sir Leon Brittan, the chief EC negotiator at the so-called quad talks, told British Prime Minister John Major the negotiations will lead to a "better than expected" reduction in the Japanese tariff on British whiskey sold in Japan. But the official said there is one catch. He said any reduction is dependent on a successful resolution of the Uruguay Round.

He said that if the deal goes through, whiskey in Japan will sell for as much as 170 yen less a liter. The official said that because the outcome of the quad talks still must go to Geneva, they represent "progress toward agreements, not agreements themselves."

Another British official told the briefing that Major has accepted an invitation to visit Japan between September 19 and 21. The official said Major will be accompanied by "a very senior party."

The official said a draft political declaration due for release Thursday [8 July] at the ongoing G-7 summit in Tokyo is "short, punchy and readable," and reflects Major's desire to simplify the summit process. "The Japanese are to be congratulated on reducing some of the ceremonial aspects and for reducing the size of many of the declarations," the official said. "With any luck, we will be able to read many of them," he added.

'Breakthrough' Reported

OW0707143693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 7 KYODO—Top trade negotiators from Canada, the European Community (EC), Japan, and the United States said Wednesday [6 July] they have reached a "breakthrough" market access package which analysts described as smaller than expected.

"We managed to make a breakthrough," said Japan's Foreign Minister Kabun Muto who co-chaired the so-called "quad" meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori.

But in a joint news conference with top negotiators from the other three nations, Muto said major sensitive sectors—such as textiles for the U.S., electronics for the EC, and wood products for Japan—remain subject to further negotiations. Muto said the ministers submitted to their respective leaders a report of what they reached at the intensive six-hour meeting which started Tuesday night and continued until early Wednesday morning.

Leaders from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations, including the four economic powers, are attending the three-day summit starting Wednesday afternoon.

As "minimum elements to achieve an overall balanced package," the quad ministers agreed to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers for pharmaceutical, construction equipment, medical equipment, steel, beer. They also agreed to subject furniture, farm equipment, and alcoholic spirits to some agreed-upon exceptions.

For steel, however, EC External Economic Relations Commissioner Leon Brittan expressed his dissatisfaction about U.S. antidumping duties on steel imports. Brittan said at the news conference that elimination of tariffs on steel depends on successful conclusion of a multilateral steel agreement, which he said requires more flexibility from the U.S.

"I can't imagine, moreover, a multilateral steel agreement without satisfactory solution of current disputes over antidumping countervailing duties imposed by the U.S. (on steel imports)," Brittan said.

Brittan welcomed the outcome of the quad meeting, saying, "this is an exciting day for world trade and good news to the world economy." But he urged the U.S. to make further concessions in the textile sector, stressing that peak tariffs which he called the "biggest barriers" must be cut "at least 50 percent."

Although several key market access issues were left outstanding, the top negotiators looked united to seek a successful conclusion this year of the long-stalled Uruguay Round of global trade talks being held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor was "confident" the Uruguay Round talks can be wrapped up by December 15 when the U.S. Administration's fast-truck authority to pass a trade bill on a leave-it-or-take-it basis will effectively expire.

Kantor said "the largest tariff cut in history," while only covering manufacturing goods at the moment, would give momentum to the nearly seven-year global trade talks and help move forward negotiations on other key issues such as services, agriculture and trade rules. Aside from Japan's positive contribution in financial services, he said much remains to be done to achieve liberalization in fields such as maritime and audio-visual services.

Canadian International Trade Minister Tom Hockin also was upbeat, saying, "we've done hop and step today so that we can do the jump to December 15."

"There's a high chance," said Brittan, agreeing on bright prospects for the Uruguay Round.

Mori said the ministers discussed market access in such a way as to charm not only the four economic powers but also more than 100 other negotiating partners. He expressed hope that as many nations as possible will take part in negotiations to work out a more attractive package by the year-end deadline.

Mori said he expects the "good results" of the quad meeting to be an impetus to the multilateral process.

Kantor disclosed the multilateral negotiating process in Geneva will back on track next Monday [12 July], addressing the most thorny agricultural issues.

Clinton To Offer Regional Security Framework in Seoul

SK0807032693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0259 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 (YONHAP)—U.S. President Bill Clinton, who proposed a New Pacific Community plan in a speech delivered at Waseda University in Tokyo Wednesday, will make another proposal to build a new Asia-Pacific regional security framework during his visit to Seoul between July 10-11, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Thursday.

Quoting a source accompanying Clinton on his visit to Tokyo to attend the G-7 summit [Group of Seven], the Japanese daily newspaper said that with his Seoul proposal on a new collective security system in the region, Clinton's New Pacific Community concept would now have a balanced blueprint of security, economy and politics based on "an open economy" and "democracy." The newspaper said what form the regional security system should take and how extensive it should be are some of the questions that have to be discussed in the future.

But Washington was considering including not only its allies, such as South Korea, Japan, Australia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations but also its Cold-War adversaries of China and Russia, it said. The source was quoted as saying that the U.S. plan to include China and Russia in the proposed Asia-Pacific regional security framework was intended to check arms race among the regional countries for the eventual arms reduction in the region.

As Washington would not change its existing bilateral security assistance pacts with South Korea and Japan and its foward deployment strategy of forces in the region, the proposed regional secuirty framework would be "a softer forum" than the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the newspaper said.

The new regional collective security system is related to U.S. defense budget cuts and its strategy to maintain military supremacy in the region, it added.

Japan

Tokyo, U.S. Had Nuclear Plan for Disputed Isle

OW0807095893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. companies had a secret plan in the 1980's to build nuclear power stations on Etorofu island, one of the islands in the disputed northern territories, but shelved it due to cost problems, business sources said Thursday [8 July].

The plan to build nuclear power stations on the Soviet-held island to transmit power to Japan was worked out by Bechtel Corp., a U.S. engineering firm, and was proposed to the Japan International Development Organization (Jaido), the sources said.

The sources said Bechtel conducted a 50,000 dollar feasibility study in 1989 at Jaido's request.

The high cost of installing power lines to metropolitan Tokyo caused the two companies to shelve the plan, the sources said.

Jaido officials said the plan is no longer workable, but Bechtel officials said they have not given the plan up.

Jaido is affiliated with the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

The Northern Territories, disputed by Japan and Russia, also include the islands of Shikotan and Kunashiri and the Habomai group of islets, which were seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

Kinkel: UNSC Seat Tied to Troop Dispatch

OW0807073293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO—German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said here Thursday that an amendment to the German Constitution would allow the full participation of his country in UN peacekeeping or peacemaking operations.

"In my opinion such a constitutional amendment is the prerequisite for a (permanent) seat in the (United Nations) Security Council," Kinkel said at a news briefing during the Tokyo summit.

Germany must be ready not only to make use of its rights but also fulfill its international duties, he said.

Germany's postwar constitution, drawn up in the wake of its aggressor role in World War II, is widely interpreted as prohibiting the dispatch of troops outside of the territory of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Kinkel and Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto agreed in talks Wednesday that Japan and Germany will not pressure but rather "mutually support" their bids for becoming permanent members of the security council.

Liquor Makers 'Frustrated' Over Tariff Removal

OW0707212193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1459 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 7 KYODO—Japan's liquor makers said Wednesday they are frustrated by an accord to remove tariffs on imported liquor reached by top trade negotiators from Canada, the European Community, Japan and the United States.

The Japan Spirits and Liquors Makers Association said it "deeply regrets" the agreement because it will further undermine their business, which was dealt a blow in 1989 when the government revised a liquor tax law to boost the competitiveness of imported whisky.

When the government cuts the tariffs on imported whisky, it will call for a considerable cut in liquor taxes, the association said.

The quadrilateral meeting agreed Wednesday to eliminate tariffs on such products as distilled liquors, beer, steel, agricultural machines, and medicines.

The agreement was reached as a means of giving momentum to discussions on the long-stalled Uruguay Round of trade liberalization talks for the leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations in the ongoing summit meeting in Tokyo.

Aside from liquor makers, however, other Japanese industries concerned remained generally calm.

Beer makers said the import tariff on beer is about 6.40 yen per liter, or only 2 yen per 350 mililiter can. Also, imported beer accounted for less than 2 percent of domestic beer consumption last year, they said.

"It may not be a serious problem," said an official of the nation's largest beer maker, Kirin Brewery Co.

Pharmaceutical firms also stayed cool, saying it is hard to imagine that imports of medicine will rise dramatically. Japan's drug imports amounted to about 412 billion yen in 1991, against its 6 trillion yen domestic market.

Suharto Meets With Emperor Akihito

OW0607092593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0827 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 6 KYODO—Indonesian President Suharto met with Emperor Akihito Tuesday [6 July] afternoon at the Imperial Palace, government officials said.

Suharto told the emperor that although he would not have a chance to explain views of non-aligned nations directly to leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized nations, he is pleased to have held talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday, Imperial Household Agency officials said.

Suharto met with Miyazawa as chairman of the 108-nation Non-Aligned Movement and asked him to convey the group's message to other G-7 leaders during the summit meeting starting here Wednesday.

Suharto thanked the emperor for Japan's cooperation, saying "Japan is the No. 1 (nation) in foreign investment (in Indonesia)," the officials said.

Emperor Akihito replied that "cooperation between the two countries is important," the officials said.

Suharto will also meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton Wednesday morning before returning home.

Media Poll Examines Japanese, U.S. Attitudes

OW0607062493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0532 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 6 KYODO—Two out of three Japanese do not trust U.S. President Bill Clinton and the vast majority of 85 percent believe the United States is blaming Japan for its own economic problems, according to a survey released by Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) on Tuesday [6 July].

In contrast, Americans are divided over who to blame for trade problems with Japan, with 45 percent saying the Japanese are competing unfairly, and 44 percent agreeing the U.S. is making a scapegoat of Japan, the poll showed.

In contrast, Americans are divided over who to blame for trade problems with Japan, with 45 percent saying the Japanese are competing unfairly, and 44 percent agreeing the U.S. is making a scapegoat of Japan, the poll showed.

Neither side has confidence in their leaders to resolve the trade disputes, according to the joint survey conducted in June by TBS, CBS News and THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The survey underscored that Japanese and Americans are far apart on a wide spectrum of diplomatic and military issues that have emerged as focal issues in the post-cold war era.

While many Americans are wary about Japan increasing its military might, more than half, or 57 percent, said Japan has a responsibility to give military assistance in trouble spots around the world when requested by its allies. Three out of four Japanese, or 73 percent, rejected this view, with only 24 percent in agreement.

Indeed, 66 percent of Japanese said it is not necessary to join United Nations peacekeeping operations which pose a risk of loss of life to Japanese peacekeepers, against 32 percent who say Japan should accept the role.

Two out of three Japanese worry their country could be drawn into war if it expands its military role in UN peacekeeping efforts, the survey showed.

Japanese were divided on their country's first dispatch of troops abroad since World War II, with 30 percent approving of sending a 600-member engineering corps to Cambodia, 30 percent opposed and 39 percent uncertain.

Most Americans, 80 percent, did not know that Japan had sent troops to Cambodia to join UN operations, while 9 percent thought Japan was not participating in Cambodia and 4 percent knew it was.

Fifty-four percent of Americans and 44 percent of Japanese are concerned that Japan may become "too aggressive" if it increases its military power to cooperate in international peacekeeping operations, whereas 54 percent of Japanese and 36 percent of Americans do not believe this is likely.

Americans and Japanese were also at odds over who should provide financial assistance to Russia to bolster its economic reforms.

Sixty-three percent of Americans thought Japan should give economic aid to Russia, compared with 49 percent who said Washington should cough up funds.

Meanwhile, more Japanese thought that the U.S should funnel aid to Moscow (63 percent) than thought Japan should (55 percent), and 64 percent said Tokyo should not help Moscow until a solution is found to a long-standing territorial dispute.

Only 19 percent of Americans said they had any knowledge of the Russian-Japanese dispute over four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Despite growing pessimism among Japanese about the future of economic relations with the U.S., most respondents, 68 percent, see the U.S. as Japan's most important ally in the 21st century.

Americans do not share the feeling, however, citing Russia (17 percent), and Britain (16 percent) ahead of Japan (10 percent.)

In Japan, 1,395 persons aged over 18 were interviewed from June 10 to 16. In the U.S., 1,363 telephone interviews were conducted. The margin of error was plus or minus 3 percent.

MITI Minister Meets With Canadian Counterpart

OW0607051693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0455 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 6 KYODO—Canadian International Trade Minister Thomas Hocking on Tuesday urged Japan to reciprocally abolish tariffs on wood products as part of a market-access package for industrial goods and services, trade ministry officials said. Hocking made the request at a meeting with International Trade and

Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori, stressing the importance of the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, the officials said.

While showing an understanding of Hocking's claim, Mori said it is difficult for Japan to compromise in this sector because woodlands account for 70 percent of Japan and also a general election is close at hand, they said. Mori in return asked Hocking for cooperation in finalizing the market-access package at a quadrilateral meeting later in the day, where ministers from four economic powers will try to work out the package to report to leaders from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations at the three-day summit starting Wednesday, they said.

Hocking also requested that Japan reduce tariffs on nonferrous metal and paper, they said. Mori only replied that a balance as a whole is essential when making the package, they said.

Showing interest in the Japan-U.S. new framework talks, Hocking warned that a U.S. sectoral approach toward "managed trade" would have a bad impact on the free-trade system, the officials said. Mori agreed with Hocking, saying that Japan has objected to setting any sort of quantitative targets, they said.

Farmers' Groups Critical of GATT Talks

OW0507122593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 5 KYODO—Farmers' groups from 13 countries ended a two-day meeting in Tokyo on Monday [5 July] in which they panned the Uruguay round of global trade talks, saying it rejects their basic roles in agricultural production. A joint declaration said the negotiations should not be allowed to pursue a free trading system that would endanger various factors considered necessary for maintaining farmers' livelihoods.

The "Farm Summit," held just before the annual gathering of leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations, brought together 43 delegates from 22 agricultural groups representing family farmers in 13 countries. Their declaration said the round, held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), aims only at global trade expansion while neglecting farmers' demands on incomes, labor conditions and the various functions of agriculture in society. It emphasized the need for economic planners formulating global farm trade rules to take into account factors not relevant to manufacturing, such as national security and maintenance of rural society.

The declaration was handed to Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who will chair the G-7 summit that opens Wednesday. Miyazawa was asked to make efforts during the summit on behalf of farmers regarding the Uruguay round talks. Farm trade is a major stumbling block to successful conclusion of the long drawn-out round.

During Monday's session, a South Korean delegate said Asian farmers, particularly rice growers, are playing an important role in land use and ecological maintenance. Leland Swenson, president of the National Farmers' Union of the United States, stressed the necessity to preserve national land resources and promote environmentally friendly agriculture. Swenson said these goals can be achieved not by enlarging the scale of agriculture or becoming more entrepreneurial but by maintaining family unit farming.

Miyazawa Problems Before G-7 Talks Noted

OW0507004393 Tokyo KYODO in English 2317 GMT 4 Jul 93

["News Focus": "Miyazawa Grapples With Problems as G-7 Leaders Gather"]

[Text] Tokyo, July 5 KYODO—The leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers will gather in Tokyo this week, each tormented with their own domestic woes. But probably no one attending the group's annual summit meeting is more troubled than its host.

Just weeks before the July 7-9 talks, Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's dream of impressing the world and the Japanese public as leader of an economic superpower evaporated.

His good command of English and his experiences in foreign and economic affairs may not be enough for him to enjoy his time on the international stage.

With Japan's politics in turmoil, Miyazawa would face strong demands from his G-7 partners that Japan spur domestic demand and open its markets to help cut its huge external surpluses.

The three-day gathering of the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States is to open four days after the beginning of official campaigning for the July 18 House of Representatives election.

Since disbanding the powerful lower house June 18 following a no-confidence vote against his cabinet—a move that prompted the election, Miyazawa has been viewed as a lame duck both at home and abroad.

In the election, the Japanese public is expected to vote against the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), ending its control of government since 1955 and dashing Miyazawa's hopes for his second term as party president.

The post carried the prime ministership because the LDP enjoyed a majority in the lower house.

At a recent news conference, he brushed aside suggestions that the domestic disorder may affect the summit talks, saying the "Sherpas," or personal representatives of the G-7 leaders, have been preparing for the Tokyo meeting for months and that policies do not change overnight.

He expressed optimism that Japan can reach trade agreements with leading industrialized nations, including some kind of an accord with U.S. President Bill Clinton on a new economic framework.

Foreign Ministry officials said the world leaders would discuss such economic issues as the slow recovery of the world economy, unemployment, trade, aid to Russia and the environment.

As the only Asian member of the G-7 and host of the group's talks in Asia for the first time in seven years, Japan also plans to reflect the views of other Asian partners in the meeting by raising problems surrounding developing nations, they said.

Miyazawa will meet Indonesian President Suharto, the head of 108-nation non-aligned movement, prior to the G-7 summit to hear the developing nations' opinions.

In the political arena, the summiteers are expected to discuss regional problems such as the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East, reform of the United Nations and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The G-7 leaders will hold postsummit talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin to reaffirm their support for the nation's reforms.

A senior U.S. official said recently in Washington that the G-7 nations have agreed to cut by half the size of the privatization fund from the original 4 billion dollars.

Asked about his planned talks Thursday with Yeltsin, who canceled trips to Tokyo in September and May, Miyazawa said he will convey Japan's basic position on the territorial dispute.

Japan maintains that the return of four Russian-held islands is a prerequisite for massive economic aid to Russia and for the conclusion of a bilateral peace treaty.

Aside from the group meetings, Miyazawa is expected to hold separate meetings with Clinton, British Prime Minister John Major, Italian Prime Minister Carlo Ciampi and Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell.

Miyazawa-Yeltsin Meeting Previewed

OW0507004193 Tokyo KYODO in English 2307 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 5 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will meet Thursday [8 July] to discuss the territorial row that has prevented the two countries from ending their Cold World [as received] rhetoric.

But their talks, which come during a break from the Tokyo economic summit, offer little hope of bridging the profound gap, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Miyazawa said last Friday he will tell Yeltsin Tokyo will not backpedal from its position of refusing to normalize its ties with Moscow unless some tangible progress is made in meeting a Japanese request to revive its sovereignty over four islands seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

"The necessity of doing that (resolving the territorial rift) will be conveyed (to Yeltsin)," a Foreign Ministry official said at a news briefing.

Although Miyazawa expressed readiness to give Moscow economic aid of "appropriate size," the cash gift may not draw gratitude from his Russian guest, who earlier told the Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's parliament, "it is unforgivable to divide the territory of the Russian republic."

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE in April, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said, "Although the territorial issue will be debated along with other issues at the forum of negotiations, any single controversial issue should not overshadow our bilateral relations or be given priority."

Kozyrev made the remark after Japan unveiled a plan to extend 1.82 billion dollars in export credits, trade insurance and grants to Moscow as part of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations' 43 billion dollar package.

He also renewed Russia's request to Japan to hand over some of its high technological know-how, such as laser technology and optical fiber for a proposed Russian project to link Japan and western Russia.

Nearly a year ago, a high-powered Russian delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin, visited Tokyo and sought high technological transfers in dozens of key categories it specified in a prepared list of items Moscow wants to get.

Yeltsin canceled scheduled trips in September and May.

Yeltsin blamed the cancellations on the "too obstinate" Japanese diplomatic stance of linking economic aid to Moscow's readiness to make progress in resolving the territorial dispute.

At a news conference Friday, Miyazawa said Japan will ask Yeltsin to pay a separate visit to Tokyo at an unspecified future time in addition to his stay for the "G-7 Plus 1" talks.

Tadao Morimoto, senior adviser at the Toray Corporate Business Research, a think tank, told a recent KYODO NEWS SERVICE seminar, "Russian Vice President Aleksndr Rutskoy disclosed in May that 60 percent of 510,000 tons of humanitarian aid from the West in 1992 were embezzled and sold to the Russian mafia and other black marketers."

It now appears that the G-7 and the international lending institutions may provide Russia with only 2 billion dollars for a privatization fund.

Source Says Yeltsin May Visit in Mid-October

OW0807121693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Russian President Boris Yeltsin tentatively agreed Thursday [8 July] to realize a twice-canceled state visit by Yeltsin to Japan in mid-October, a Japanese Government source said.

Foreign Ministry officials said, however, the two leaders agreed to try and realize the Yeltsin visit in September or October.

The two leaders reached the agreement in their 35-minute meeting at Miyazawa's official residence several hours after Yeltsin arrived in Tokyo for talks with leaders of the Group of Seven nations, the ministry officials said.

The officials said the two countries will determine a Yeltsin visit through diplomatic channels.

Miyazawa reportedly told Yeltsin the success of Russia's reform efforts will be beneficial not only to Russo-Japanese relations but the rest of the world.

Yeltsin canceled a planned visit to Japan last September over Tokyo's insistence that Russia return four disputed islands. He also called off a visit that had been tentatively scheduled for May.

General Allegedly Offered POW's for Hard Labor

OW0507093493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow, July 5 KYODO—The top general of the Japanese Imperial Army in northeastern China offered the Soviet Union Japanese prisoners of war for use as forced labor shortly after World War II, the head of an internees association said Monday [5 July].

Rokuro Saito, head of the Sakata-based All Japanese Association of Former Internees (Zenyokkyo), said he discovered this in a letter sent by Gen. Otozo Yamada, commander of the Kwangtung Army (known in Japan as Kantogun), to Marshal Aleksandr Vasilevskiy, commander of the Soviet Far Eastern Forces. The letter is in the archives of the Russian Defense Ministry.

It was long rumored in Japan that Gen. Yamada offered the Soviet Union Japanese prisoners of war to do hard labor in Siberia as a form of war compensation. More than 600,000 Japanese officers and soldiers were taken to Siberia to construct railways and to do other hard labor shortly after World War II, according to the association. Of the 600,000, some 62,000 were either killed or died of diseases.

According to Saito, Yamada in the letter asked Marshal Vasilevskiy to use Japanese prisoners of war to help "the management of your Army" in northeastern China until the prisoners would return to Japan.

Yamada sent the letter to the Soviet commander on August 29, 1945, 10 days after the Soviet Far Eastern Army and the Kwangtung Army held a cease-fire conference at the northeastern Chinese border with the Soviet Union. Yamada in the letter requested the Soviet commander to allow more than 30,000 of sicked prisoners of war to return home by the beginning of winter in 1945.

Saito said he speculated the offer may have prompted the Soviet Union to understand Japan would not be opposed to the transfer of the prisoners of war to Siberia.

Prior to the offer by Yamada, then Soviet leader Joseph Stalin was said to have independently ordered the Soviet Far Eastern Army to take the prisoners of war to Siberia to use them as workers to reconstruct the war-devastated Soviet Union.

Teigo Kusachi, a former staff officer of the Kwangtung Army, on Monday denied there was ever any such offer. He said the Army never asked the Soviets to use the prisoners of war for forced labor and the Soviet Union took them to Siberia of its own accord.

Another key staff officer, Ryuzo Sejima, former Itochu Corp. chairman, also denied the suspected offer. He told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the Japanese Army never proposed such offer and added they never agreed or never tacitly permitted with Soviet demands on pows.

Saito and his association have been demanding that the Japanese Government pay wages to former prisoners of war for their time spent as forced laborers in Siberia, in accordance with international law. After the war, Yamada was sentenced by the Soviet Union to 25 years in prison. He returned to Japan in 1956 and died in July 1965.

Fujitsu To Cut Prices of Supercomputer Models

OW0507004493 Tokyo KYODO in English 2354 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 5 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd. is to lower prices on its main supercomputer models by more than 30 percent to improve their price competitiveness, the NIHON KOGYO SHIMBUN reported Monday [5 July].

The price cuts are aimed primarily at boosting competitiveness with its Japanese and U.S. rivals in government procurement of such computers, the industrial daily said.

The Japanese Government is set to purchase 11 supercomputers to improve the nation's social infrastructure in the current fiscal year, which started April 1.

Among the Fujitsu models involved are 12 models of the mainstay VPX series and 10 models of the "parallel-processing" VPP500 series, the daily said.

Hitachi Ltd. has already lowered its prices by an average of 33 percent for supercomputers it introduced last year and NEC Corp. reduced prices by about 30 percent in the spring.

Reportage on Kick-Off of Official Campaign

Nine Party Leaders Begin Campaigns

OW0407090693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 4 KYODO—The leaders of nine political parties took to the streets on Sunday [4 July] to canvass votes across Japan in a watershed general election which may result in the end to the ruling party's 38-year grip on power. Japan's 94.8 million eligible voters were called on to hand down a verdict on July 18 House of Representatives election.

A total of 955 candidates registered their candidacy with local election boards in the vote to elect 511 legislators to the lower chamber of the Diet.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) entered a total of 285 candidates—its smallest group of candidates ever.

The No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party [SDP] fielded 142 candidates, Komeito 54, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) 129, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) 28, while the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) entered four.

Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), whose parliamentary rebellion from the LDP forced Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to call the election, fielded 69 candidates, Sakigake (Harbinger Party) 15, whereas the Japan New Party [JNP] entered 55.

Miyazawa showed up in a busy Tokyo square in front of Shibuya Station and pleaded with some 1,000 passers-by and supporters to scuttle the opposition alliance's bid to end the LDP's 38-year unbroken rule.

Miyazawa, also LDP president, said Japan's security policy would be undermined if voters handed over power to opposition parties, which have vowed to form a coalition if the LDP loses its majority in the powerful lower house.

"The Social Democratic Party, which has the biggest presence in the opposition parties' alliance, has been blasting the Self Defense Forces [SDF] as unconstitutional," he said. "Could they be able to compile Japan's defense budget if the coalition (including the SDP) took power?" he asked.

"I want to press opposition parties, which are now planning to take power by forming coalitions such as with the SDP, to answer my question... What do they think of this (SDP defense policy) problem," he said.

Miyazawa and his LDP have been under a barrage of public criticism for the LDP's failure to clear up money-dominated politics following a string of bribery scandals.

SDP Chairman Sadao Yamahana urged some 500 people in front of Hakodate station in Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido to end the LDP's uninterrupted rule, saying the vote is a good chance to "stop corruption-ridden LDP politics and establish a new coalition government to carry out political reform."

Yamahana told the audience the SDP will strive to become the "principle axis" of the new coalitions.

Tsutomu Hata, leader of the LDP breakaway Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], condemned the LDP to achieve political reform and pledged that his party would become the core of the coalition to replace the LDP.

Morihiro Hosokawa, JNP leader, told the audience of the constituency of Yamanashi, that what is at stake in the July 18 vote is whether voters would say yes or not to the one-party rule of the LDP. He urged the voters to say "good-bye" to the LDP.

Takeshita Stands as Independent

OW0407095493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0920 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Matsue, July 4 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Sunday [4 July] kicked off his campaign as an independent candidate in the July 18 House of Representatives election, vowing to clear suspicion that he was implicated in a money-and-mob scandal.

Speaking to some 500 supporters in front of his election office in Matsue in western Japan, Takeshita said, "the environment was harsh for me during the past one year."

Touching upon the scandal, Takeshita said, "I was criticized for things I had nothing to do with. I will compensate you for causing worries to you through my entire political life."

The 69-year-old former premier said, "I believe in myself and want you to believe me. I would like to unravel the truth by devoting the rest of my life."

Takeshita, elected to the lower house 12 times from the Shimane constituency on the western coast of the Sea of Japan, is the third ex-premier to seek a lower house seat without the LDP ticket.

Nine candidates are running for the five-seat constituency.

Takeshita has rejected the opposition demand that he resign to take responsibility for his alleged links with the scandal involving the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin trucking firm.

Takeshita, who testified as a sworn witness in Diet hearings on the matter three times, denied allegations that he gained the help of a crime syndicate boss to stop a smear campaign by an ultra-rightist group against him when vying for the LDP presidency in 1987.

He resigned as prime minister in June 1989 to take responsibility for his alleged involvement in the 1988-1989 Recruit stocks-for-favors scandal.

Party Heads Begin Campaigning

OW0407114493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 4 KYODO—Campaigning started rolling Sunday [4 July] for a watershed general election which could revamp Japan's political scene by breaking the ruling party's 38-year clamp on power.

A total of 955 candidates, a record high since the ruling Liberal Democratic Party was founded in 1955, registered their candidacy with local election boards for the July 18 general election of 511 legislators to the House of Representatives. Of those registered, 70 were women—a postwar high.

The LDP entered a total of 285 candidates—its smallest number of candidates ever. The LDP held 275 seats in the lower house when it was dissolved, but the defection of its 48 members has since whittled down its strength to 227—well below a simple majority of 256.

The No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] fielded 142 candidates, Komeito 54, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) 129, the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] 28, while the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) entered four.

Newly formed Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), a breakaway from the LDP, fielded 69. Sakigake (Harbinger), another LDP breakaway, entered 15, whereas the Japan New Party entered 55. Both Shinseito and Sakigake were formed shortly after the Diet dissolution.

The election follows a string of scandals that overthrew LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, the backstage kingmaker who swept Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to power in 1991. Kanemaru was indicted in March on a charge of evading 1.04 billion yen in taxes on 1.85 billion yen in undeclared income, which he allegedly amassed by skimming cash donations.

The government set the balloting date for July 18, even at the risk of holding the Tokyo summit of seven major industrial democracies during the 14-day campaign period. It reportedly feared a delay of only one week would force it to face the voters' verdict after Kanemaru goes on trial July 22. In Japan elections are held on Sundays.

Also, five days before the onset of the campaigns, prosecutors arrested Sendai Mayor Toru Ishii and top executives of four major contractors in connection with an alleged 100 million yen bribe case. Prosecutors reportedly made the arrest on the strength of documented evidence they had seized in March raids on the offices of Japan's 18 major contractors in connection with the Kanemaru case.

Five noncommunist opposition parties—the SDP, Komeito, the DSP, the USDP and Shinseito—have agreed to cooperate in hopes of forming a coalition after the election if the LDP loses its majority in the lower house.

The JNP and Sakigake have kept distance from the coalition plan by the five opposition parties to keep a free hand after the election. The two parties could cast a deciding vote in forming a coalition.

On this backdrop, Miyazawa and eight other politicians took to the streets Sunday, pleading with some 94.8 million eligible voters to support the parties. Miyazawa dissolved the lower house on June 18 after he failed to survive an opposition no-confidence vote—helped by rebel LDP members—against his government for its failure to enact political reform bills during the last Diet session.

Miyazawa showed up in a busy Tokyo square in front of Shibuya station and pleaded with about 1,000 passers-by and supporters to scuttle the opposition alliance's bid to end the LDP's 38-year unbroken rule. Miyazawa, also LDP president, said Japan's security policy would be undermined if voters handed over power to opposition parties.

"The Social Democratic Party, which has the biggest presence in the opposition parties' alliance, has been blasting the self-defense forces as unconstitutional," he said. "Could they be able to compile Japan's defense budget if the coalition took power?"

He accused opposition parties planning to link up with the SDP of belittling their incompatible political and ideological gaps with socialists in a bid to take away power from the LDP. SDP Chairman Sadao Yamahana urged about 500 voters in front of Hakodate station in Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido to end the LDP's uninterrupted rule, saying the vote is a good chance to "stop corruption-ridden LDP politics and establish a new coalition government to carry out political reform."

Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida said at a complex of apartments in Tokyo's Nerima ward that the vote will become a "historical turning point" in which the LDP would lose power.

Tsutomu Hata, Shinseito leader, condemned the LDP for reneging on its promise to achieve political reform and pledged that his party would become the core of the coalition to replace the LDP. The former finance minister was speaking to some 1,200 voters who banded together in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, western Japan.

Morihiro Hosokawa, JNP leader, told an audience at the constituency of Yamanashi—the home base of the disgraced Kanemaru—that what is at stake in the July 18 vote is whether voters would say yes or no to the one-party rule of the LDP. He urged the voters to say "good-bye" to the LDP.

A national review of nine Supreme Court justices was also announced Sunday. Voters will be asked to deliver their verdict on the judges the same day they vote in the lower house election.

Parties Issue Statements

OW0307123493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 3 KYODO—Nine major political parties called for support in their statements issued Saturday [3 July], one day before the official start of campaigns for the July 18 general election.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said if a coalition government comprised of dubious partners without ideals is born after the election, Japan's economy and the national life will collapse and the nation will become isolated from the rest of the world. The LDP will make utmost efforts to secure a simple majority in the election to conquer the largest crisis since its founding, it said.

The Social Democratic Party [of Japan, SDPJ] said it is time for the people to break with one-party rule by the LDP and to choose a new corruption-free political leadership. The SDP is determined to take a pivotal role in forming a coalition by a non-LDP force, it said.

Komeito vowed it will replace the LDP government, resolutely carry out political reform and place priority on consumers.

Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) said it will end one-party rule by the LDP and implement sweeping political reforms.

The Japanese Communist Party said if noncommunist opposition parties could end the one-party rule by the LDP and forces trying to continue LDP policies dominate, "misgovernment" will prevail.

The Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] said the election will put an end to the one-party rule by the LDP and asked voters if they prefer an unstable or a stable coalition.

Sakigake (Harbinger) said the election is a selection between old politics, which scrapped political reform, and new politics without corruption.

The United Social Democratic Party [USDP] called for an end to one-party rule by the LDP and for a coalition with non-LDP and noncommunist forces.

The Japan New Party said Japan is being asked to create a new order and stability and to make a contribution to the international society to realize global peace.

Table of Candidates by Party

OW0407040493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0217 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text) Tokyo, July 4 KYODO—Following is a table of candidates by party for the July 18 general election registered as of 11:00 A.M. Sunday [4 July]. (figures in brackets indicate number of women):

parties	candidates				pre-election strength
	incumbent	former	new	total	
LDP	212	23	49	284 (2)	227
SDP	121	1	19	141(10)	134
Komeito	25	1	28	54 (2)	45
Shinseito	35	3	31	69 (1)	36
JCP	15	10	104	129(32)	16
DSP	12	8	8	28	13
Sakigake	10	0	5	15	10
USDP (Shaminren)	4	0	0	4	4
JNP	0	0	55	55 (3)	0
Other minor parties	1	0	35	36 (9)	2
Independents	14	7	87	108(10)	10
Vacancies	-	-	-	-	15
Total	449	53	421	923(69)	512

(note: one seat has been cut from the House of Representatives, leaving 511 seats up for election this time. The LDP had 275 seats when the lower house was dissolved on June 18. Of the 275 members, 48 have since bolted the party and shifted to Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], Sakigake [Harbinger Party] or have become independents.)

94.86 Million Eligible To Vote

OW0407134893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 4 KYODO—Some 94.8 million will be eligible to vote for the July 18 House of Representatives election, the Home Affairs Ministry said Sunday [4 July].

The number of eligible voters totaled 94,866,020 as of Saturday, up 4,287,259 or 4.7 percent from the previous election in February 1990, the ministry said. The figure consists of 46,049,629 men and 48,816,391 women. The public offices election law stipulates that those aged 20 and over are eligible to vote in elections.

Tokyo's no. 7 constituency has the most voters per seat with 320,027, while the Ehime Prefecture's no. 3 constituency has the fewest voters per representative at 112,862.

This means that one vote in the Ehime constituency carries 2.84 times more weight than one in Tokyo's no. 7 district. The disparity of the value of the votes is lower than the index of 3.00—a yardstick suggested by the Supreme Court to measure the constitutional right of equality.

Two weeks of election campaigning for the powerful lower chamber started Sunday with a total of 955 candidates vying for the 511 seats in 129 constituencies across the country. In the previous election in 1990, voter turnover was a record high of 73.27 percent, up 1.87 points from the 1986 double election for the lower house and the House of Councillors.

Hayashi Criticized for Political Donation Request

OW0507131493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 5 KYODO—The head of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) on Monday [5 July] criticized as inappropriate Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi's request to financial institutions for political donations for the July 18 general election. Gaishi Hiraiwa said at a press conference that such behavior "can invite misunderstandings," indicating his view that each industry should not meet requests for political donations to cabinet ministers with jurisdiction over that sector.

Keidanren, along with other major economic organizations, will discuss donations to new political parties after seeing the outcome of the election, in line with their agreement last week, he said. On donations to political parties, Hiraiwa said they should be covered mostly by public subsidies and individual donations, and shortages should be made up by corporate contributions. Asked if Japan needs to lower its official discount rate in line with the recent rate cut by the German Central Bank, he said it was not the right time given Japan's current economic situation.

Official Says Political Donations Up to Banks

OW0607110893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 6 KYODO—The head of a bankers' association said Tuesday he does not consider inappropriate Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi's controversial request to some commercial banks for political donations.

"The decision is up to the banks requested," Tadashi Okuda, chairman of the Federation of Bankers Association of Japan, said at a press conference.

Hayashi has reportedly asked the banks for election campaign funds for the July 18 general election.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, head of the influential Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said Monday the request "can invite misunderstandings," indicating industries should not meet requests for political donations to cabinet ministers with jurisdictiction over their sector.

"I cannot think he tried to use his post as finance minister (to get contributions)," Okuda said.

He did not reveal the amount of donations requested or which banks received requests. "Individual banks will decide on the requests under the law," he said.

Asked about emergency loans of about 10 billion yen reportedly made by eight commercial banks to the LDP, Okuda, who is also the president of Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, said his bank extended part of the loans.

Keizai Doyukai To Limit Political Donations

OW0607141093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 6 KYODO—The Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai) is likely to limit its future political contributions to conservative Japanese political parties to the current annual amount of about 13 billion yen, the association's chairman said Tuesday [6 July].

Masaru Hayami made the remark at a news conference while commenting on his association's policies concerning political contributions to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the newly created Japan New Party (JNP) and other conservative parties after the July 18 general election. Keizai Doyukai has made political donations exclusively to the LDP. Hayami indicated his association plans to coordinate opinions on political donations with other major Japanese business organizations.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), suggested Monday that his federation will not reduce its donations to the LDP.

LDP Proposes Policy Debates With Opposition

OW0707183293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1333 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 7 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) proposed Wednesday [7 July] that a joint debate with eight opposition parties be held July 13, five days prior to the general election, party officials said.

The ruling party made the proposal to the Social Democratic Party, Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party, the United Social Democratic Party, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), Sakigake (Harbinger), Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) and the Japan New Party.

The LDP urged the parties to reply by Friday.

JCP officials said the party has accepted the offer, but Shinseito leader Tsutomu Hata voiced a negative attitude.

Meanwhile, LDP officials said Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will campaign in Aomori Prefecture in northern Japan on Saturday.

It will be his first election campaign outside Tokyo since the official election campaign started on Sunday.

Miyazawa has since been preoccupied with the summit of leaders of the group of seven major industrial nations in Tokyo from Wednesday to Friday.

Miyazawa will go on the stump for an LDP candidate who belongs to the Miyazawa faction running from the No. 2 constituency in Aomori.

But LDP candidates in the No. 1 constituency have gently refused Miyazawa's campaigning offers, LDP sources said.

Hayashi Asks for Donations Via Bankers Group

OW0607141193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 6 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi has asked for donations from a bankers association instead of individual banks to fund campaigns for the July 18 general election, top major commercial bank officials indicated Tuesday [6 July].

The officials, who declined to be named, said the request was made via Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, which now chairs the Federation of Bankers Association of Japan, and therefore, should not be regarded as one to individual banks. They said a decision to comply with the request or not will be reached by Tadashi Okuda, chairman of the federation and president of Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank. Hayashi earlier said he made the request individually to his long-time friends.

Okuda admitted at a news conference Tuesday that he received a donation request from Hayashi, but said he does not consider Hayashi's request inappropriate. "I don't think Hayashi made the request to the bankers' federation and the decision on whether to comply is up to the banks requested," he said.

Banker Calls Request Unusual

OW0807012693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0110 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO—A top official at Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank has said the action of Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi in seeking political donations from banks is unprecedented for an incumbent finance minister, at least in recent years.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official said late Wednesday [7 July], "although we traced back our records for the past several years, there is no similar request to our bank from an incumbent finance minister to donate money for an election."

He made the remarks to reporters in response to questions about Hayashi's request to several major commercial banks for campaign contributions for the July 18 general election.

Hayashi has admitted he was receiving political donations from banks and securities companies, but has said he made the request as an individual and not in his capacity as a cabinet member.

Hayashi's demand to banks for campaign funds was first reported on July 2. According to the bank official, Hayashi has not repeated the request since the report was circulated.

DSP Said To Seek Funds From 6 Industries

OW0807041793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO—The opposition Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) sought political contributions of 500 million yen in late June from six major Japanese industries, business sources said Thursday [8 July].

The request was made through the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) to help the DSP cover election campaign costs immediately after revelations that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) sought donations of 18 billion yen from the same industries, the sources said.

The LDP had reportedly sought the donations from the auto, electronics, banking, construction, electric power, and steel industries through Keidanren, Japan's largest business lobby, in connection with the July 18 general election.

The sources said business executives were dismayed by the DSP request amid a national controversy over the pros and cons of political contributions.

They said the request marked the first time the DSP had asked for political contributions from industries.

There has been no such request from newly created conservative parties, including Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) and Sakigake (Harbinger Party), the sources said.

Party Leaders Discuss Campaign Strategies

OW0807055593

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 1050 GMT on 4 July in its "News 7" program carries a live 60-minute panel discussion via satellite. Participating in the discussion are Seiroku Kajiyama, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP); Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the main opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ); Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Komeito; Tsutomu Hata, chairman of the Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party); Tetsuzo Fuwa, presidium chairman of the Japan Communist Party; Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party; Satsuki Eda, representative of the United Socialist Democratic Party; Masayoshi Takemura, representative of the Sakigake (Harbinger Party); and Morihiro Hosokawa, chairman of the Japan New Party. The discussion is conducted via several screens, with each of the panelists speaking from unidentified locations throughout Nagata-cho, Tokyo. The discussion is moderated by NHK commentator Yamamoto who speaks from the NHK studio in Tokyo.

Yamamoto begins the discussion by briefly mentioning the current political turmoil, then asks Kajiyama about his party's campaign strategy during the upcoming general elections. In response, Kajiyama says Prime Minister Miyazawa stressed today in his first stump speech in Shibuya, Tokyo that the "LDP will safeguard the people's lives under a free democracy and market economy and will change itself through political reform." Kajiyama adds that the "prime minister stressed that the LDP will work to turn the current Japanese society into a more affluent one and will work to alter Japan's international contributions." Kajiyama also adds that the LDP will reiterate what the prime minister stressed in his first speech to voters during the upcoming general elections.

Asked by Yamamoto about the significance of the upcoming general elections, Yamahana says: "The public distrust in politics is at its height; taking into account this public distrust, we intend to tell voters during the general elections that we will initiate political reform in order to root out political corruption. We also will tell voters that we will work together with them to bring an end to the longstanding politics dictated by one-party rule and to bring about a change of government. All our party members are now working hard toward that end." Asserting that the "LDP should be held responsible for failing to initiate political reform," Yamahana attacks the LDP for still adhering to money politics.

Asked by Yamamoto about his party's campaign strategy during the elections, Ishida recounts debates on political reform and the passage of a no-confidence motion against the Miyazawa cabinet at the latest Diet session, then says the "people hope to bring about a change in the current politics." Noting the "LDP is responsible for giving up political reforms and the LDP is widely discredited by people inside and outside it," Ishida says: "My party is going to strongly tell voters during the elections that it will form a new government to replace the current LDP-controlled government and will push for political reform under the new government."

When Yamamoto questions Hata about what his party intends to do to change the current politics, Hata replies: "Our party is going to win back the public trust in politics. Toward that end, our party intends to break the collusive connection between money and politics and to form a parliament where clear-cut debates can be held about how to develop our nation." Pointing out that "now there is no political party to replace the LDP as a ruling party," Hata says the "continuity of one-party rule by the LDP has caused various problems." He adds that he and his like-minded colleagues broke away from the LDP for that reason. Hata adds that the "task to be accomplished by my party is to rally another political force capable of replacing the LDP as a ruling party."

Asked by Yamamoto about his party's campaign strategy, Fuwa says the "current political turmoil stems from the public outrage over money politics" and stresses the need to prevent political parties from taking political contributions from enterprises, adding that his party will make voters realize those points during the elections. Fuwa also says that "his party intends to purge Japan of the conventional politics in which Japan relies on America for security and to build Japan into a neutral nation," adding that his party will make voters clearly understand those points during the election.

When asked what his party will stress to voters during the election, Ouchi responds: "My party will urge voters to break with corruptive politics and change the current politics." He also stresses the need to end one-party rule by the LDP toward that end. Ouchi states that he will tell voters that his party has played a pivotal role in setting Japan's key policies. Ouchi notes that opposition parties should deal with the issue of forming a coalition government and of rebuilding the current political party structure in a manner that leaves people at home and abroad free from concern. Ouchi also stresses: "Our party will play an important role in forming a coalition government and rebuilding the current political party structure."

Asked by Yamamoto about his party's campaign strategy, Takemura stresses the need to end the longstanding two-tier structure of the LDP and the SDPJ, and to root out political corruption; he adds that his party intends to urge voters to pay attention to those points.

When asked to comment on the significance of the upcoming elections, Eda replies: "My party will focus its campaign on a change of government during the elections." Eda adds that "recently the possibility has suddenly emerged for a change of government" and says his party intends to work together with other political parties to bring an end to the LDP-controlled government. Eda also states that the change of government will inspire political reform, the autonomy of local governments, and measures to build Japan into a life-style superpower.

Turning the subject to the formation of a coalition government following the general elections, Yamamoto asks Kajiyama to comment on moves by Shinseito, the SDPJ, Komeito, and the DSP to form a coalition government. In response, Kajiyama forecasts the emergence of a two-tier conservative party structure which makes a change of government possible in the long run, but expresses doubts about the possibility of forming a coalition government. Hata reacts by noting that the SDPJ has changed a great deal, and says: "If we can reach an agreement with the SDPJ on national security, particularly on defense issues and Japan's foreign policy, we will boldly seek to form a coalition government with the SDPJ. I believe the change of government will not destabilize Japanese politics." Hata also does not rule out the possibility of holding a dialogue with the SDPJ.

Asked by Yamamoto if the SDPJ will continue to uphold its policy of inheriting Japan's longstanding defense and foreign policy if it forms a coalition government, Kajiyama expresses doubts about the SDPJ's policy and notes that the LDP has not given up political reform as the SDPJ has argued. Ouchi states it is necessary to confirm when a coalition government is formed whether or not the SDPJ has changed its policies, and notes that whether a coalition government can be formed with SDPJ participation will hinge on how the SDPJ changes its policies. Ishida says: "The SDPJ will be forced to deal realistically with its policies in order to participate in the coalition government."

When asked to spell out his basic campaign strategy, Hosokawa says a change of government holds the key to pushing for political reform; during the elections his party intends to stress the need for a change of government.

In regards to a non-communist and non-LDP coalition government, Fuwa says there would be little change in Japanese politics if the coalition government inherits Japan's longstanding foreign and defense policies, adding that "his party will focus on how to purge Japan of LDP-led politics."

Asked by Yamamoto about how Japan's politics should be changed once the government is replaced, Eda refutes Fuwa's notion by saying: "A change of government would make all of Japan transparent." Hosokawa adds that "it is premature to mention forming a coalition government," stating that what is important for political parties is to spell out their respective policies during the elections.

Commenting on the formation of a coalition government, Hata says that if the "SDPJ intends to join the coalition government, it should change its policies into realistic ones." He adds that he intends to ask the SDPJ to boldly change its policies.

Responding to remarks by the rest of the panelists on the coalition government, Yamahana says that "toward the end of last year, his party succeeded in shaping a consensus on the coalition government." Ouchi points out that the notion of inheriting Japan's foreign and defense policies has sparked an uproar within the SDPJ, stressing that the "SDPJ should make clear whether it recognizes the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Self-Defense Forces as constitutional when it seeks to form the coalition government."

Yamamoto concludes the panel discussion at 1150 GMT after thanking the panelists for their time.

Political Donations Based on Seats Won Urged

OW0707182493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0811 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 7 KYODO—A business leader Wednesday [7 July] said Japan's business world should distribute political donations to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and newly formed conservative parties on the basis of seats won in the July 18 general election.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), also told a news conference that contributions should be at the discretion of each company.

"It is natural to distribute donations to conservative parties in proportion to the number of seats they win," he said.

Nagano also said that not all companies are willing to donate funds and this should be taken into account when businesses make political contributions.

Nikkeiren and three other economic organizations have decided to review their support to the LDP in view of the party's waning power and prospects it will lose to the Japan New Party (JNP) and other nascent, but popular parties, in the election for the House of Representatives.

Nagano's remarks amount to a review of past policy, analysts said.

Other economic groups are adjusting to the changing political landscape. The Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai) plans to limit future donations to conservative parties to 13 billion yen annually.

SDP Leader Says Party in Danger of Big Loss

OW0807124993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1213 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO—The leader of Japan's No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) issued an urgent appeal Thursday, warning the party is in danger of losing a large number of seats in the House of Representatives, party officials said.

Sadao Yamahana made the appeal to party members and supporters after central executive committee members studied an election analysis at its Tokyo headquarters, the officials said.

"The matter is at a brink of the party's life or death," Yamahana was quoted as saying in the appeal issued 10 days prior to the general election.

The analysis showed that the SDPJ is not supported by voters who have backed away from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the officials said.

In addition, traditional SDPJ backers are wondering if they should cast ballots for the party, the officials said.

SDP leaders considered the party to be on the brink of a crisis after it suffered a crushing defeat in the June 27 Tokyo metropolitan assembly election and the newly founded Japan New Party won a big victory.

The SDP has set a target of winning at least 100 seats in the July 18 election, a party election strategist said. The party has 142 candidates running for office in the election.

The party held 133 seats in the lower house when a no-confidence motion against the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was passed June 18. Miyazawa dissolved the lower house hours later.

Poll Results To Be Known Before Midnight 18 Jul

OW0807100093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO—The Home Affairs Ministry said Thursday [8 July] the general outcome of the July 18 election is likely to be known by around 11 P.M. [1400 GMT] on the polling day.

Results in over 90 percent of constituencies will be known by 1 A.M. the following day, the ministry added.

The ministry based its estimate on the expected times at which each local election committee will report their final results to the central election administration committee.

Voting in the general election starts at 7 A.M. and closes at 6 P.M. Election officials in all 129 constituencies will start counting ballots immediately.

The ministry instructed 21 constituencies in Tokyo, Saitama and Kanagawa Prefectures to begin counting votes on the election day, unlike at the previous general election in 1990 when they started counting on the following day.

A total of 955 candidates have been campaigning nationwide since last Sunday, vying for the 511 seats in the House of Representatives.

Deputy Prime Minister Gotoda Hospitalized

OW0807154993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1538 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO—Deputy Prime Minister Masaharu Gotoda on Thursday [8 July] night was hospitalized to a Tokyo hospital by an ambulance, fire fighters said. [sentence as received]

More on Hospitalization

OW0807161793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1602 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 KYODO—Deputy prime minister Masaharu Gotoda on Thursday [8 July] night was hospitalized to a Tokyo hospital by an ambulance after he complained he was not feeling well, firefighters said. [sentence as received]

Gotoda, 78, attended the imperial banquet held Thursday night at the Imperial Palace for leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations.

Informed sources said his respiration and pulse functions were normal after being admitted to the hospital.

The key political figure was brought to the hospital 10 days before the July 18 general election in which his Liberal Democratic Party will likely lose its majority at the House of Representatives.

North Korea

Daily: ROK Foreign Minister 'Flunkeyist Traitor'

SK0807062593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0021 GMT 6 Jul 93

[NODONG SINMUN 6 July commentary: "Base, Traitorous Act by Flunkeyist Traitor"]

[Text] Leading filthy lives in return for selling out the nation's interest by currying favor with outside forces is the inevitable nature of colonial stooges and flunkeyist traitors.

An example is a disgusting act by South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu in relation to the so-called nuclear issue. During recent talks with the Japanese foreign minister, he raved that South Korea would not demand compensation from Japan for the comfort women who were forced to be prostitutes for the Japanese Army. Instead, he committed a base act by begging that the current U.S.-Japan-South Korea tripartite cooperation system be strengthened as a way to resolve the so-called North's nuclear issue, in return for selling out the nation's sovereignty and interest.

Before this he was busily visiting the major nuclear powers, such as Russia and Great Britain, and flattered them by thanking them for their cooperation at the United Nations and with international organizations in trying to find a solution to the North's nuclear issue, and asked for continuous cooperation. He acted disgracefully when he begged them to express their firm will to the UN Security Council [UNSC] if North Korea fails to revoke its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

At a so-called Kwanhun Club debate on 1 July he babbled that if North Korea fails to implement its obligation on special inspections within two months, the ROK may induce the UNSC [UN Security Council] to impose sanctions against the North.

Han Sung-chu's despicable remarks and deeds can only be done by vicious colonial stooges steeped in flunkeyism and treachery and who do not have the slightest degree of national dignity or conscience.

As the world knows well, the North did not cause the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. It was generated when more than 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons were deployed in South Korea, posing a nuclear threat to us, and when the South Korean rulers secretly accelerated the development of nuclear weapons.

The international reactionary forces brought up the so-called suspicion of our nuclear development as an excuse to stifle [apsal] our socialist system. They absurdly insisted on the inspection of our ordinary military sites which have nothing to do with the nuclear facilities and thus infringed upon our sovereignty. The South Korean rulers became a shock brigade for the nuclear commotions and perpetrated an antinational criminal act to aggravate North-South relations. This is where the problem lies.

Our opposition to special inspections and our announcement on the withdrawal from the NPT were very legitimate self-defensive measures taken in an abnormal situation when the supreme interests of the country and the nation were gravely threatened.

If he has the slightest degree of national conscience or dignity, Han Sung-chu should have expressed sympathy with our just self-defensive measures and rejected maneuvers of the international reactionary forces to vilify and slander his fellow countrymen.

However, he is engaged in a base act, currying favor with the major powers to put pressure on and take sanctions against the fellow countrymen, peddling the North's fictitious nuclear issue invented by outside forces. What a despicable and spiteful man he is!

The subservient diplomatic posture of Han Sung-chu entreating major powers to victimize fellow countrymen illustrates the wretched features of a colonial puppet who takes dependence on outside forces and service for them as the only way to exist. At the same time, our just and decisive self-defensive measures to protect the nation's supreme interests dealt a heavy blow to the South.

This also shows that the South Korean ruling forces are trying to find a way to survive by crawling farther into the bosom of the major nuclear powers, anxious and uneasy about the announcement of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement which laid a foundation for resolving the nuclear issue, putting an end to hostile DPRK-U.S. relations.

The more the South Korean authorities beg for the major nuclear powers' protection and cooperation, the more they will reveal their true color as faithful stooges of the imperialists and as flunkeyist traitors turning their backs against their fellow countrymen.

We do not know how much money Han Sung-chu receives from his masters in return for babbling such antinational remarks. However, one can see clearly that the current South Korean regime, which has such a flunkeyist traitor as its foreign minister, is the same flunkeyist traitorous group as the preceding yusin and Fifth and Sixth Republic's fascist ruling group.

The future is nothing but rapid self-destruction for such a flunkeyist traitor who has turned his back on the fellow countrymen and is moving along the road of dependence on outside forces. The people will never tolerate traitors who try to harm the fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces.

Pyongyang Radio Denounces ROK's 'Begging Diplomacy'

SK0807055293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1507 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Recently, South Korean authorities have been intent on using begging diplomacy [chongtak oegyo] of asking foreign forces to put pressure and sanctions on us.

According to a report from South Korea's Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation, the South Korean ruler behaved himself in a disgraceful and unmanly manner at a meeting with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on 6 July, by asking the German minister to express a firm position on the North's nuclear weapons development at the upcoming meeting of the seven advanced western countries [G-7 summit].

In talks preceding this, South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu also made the rash mistake of begging Kinkel to include, without fail, the North's nuclear issue in a political declaration of the upcoming meeting.

These rash acts by South Korean ruling forces derive from their open attempt at hitting us, their fellow countrymen, with the help of foreign forces after discarding national dignity and independence.

With covert expectations for the seven western countries summit, the South Korean ruling forces are adhering to a yielding diplomatic policy [kuljong oegyojon] in order to have the summit adopt a political declaration or so aimed at crushing [apsalhada] us. We cannot help but flare up [kyokpun hada] at their criminal maneuvers.

The so-called North Korean nuclear issue is nothing but fiction fabricated by international reactionary forces with the aim of crushing our socialist system.

Paying no attention to our repeated statement that we have neither will nor ability to produce nuclear weapons, South Korean authorities are currying favor with foreign forces to make fellow countrymen a victim. How nasty their behavior is [piyolhaki kuchi opda]!

This plainly shows that they are flunky betrayers of the country, who have not a bit of national dignity and consciences, as well as a traitorous group to the nation, which is pursuing maneuvers with foreign forces to isolate and crush fellow countrymen.

KCNA Denounces ROK Reliance on 'Outside Forces'

SK0807045693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 8 Jul 93

["Base Diplomatic Offensive Through Backdoor Solicitation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities, when they met German Foreign Minister Kinkel, behaved shamelessly, asking Germany to "show a firm stand toward the development of nuclear weapons by the North" at the forthcoming G-7 [Group of Seven] summit.

This folly of the South Korean ruling forces reveals their undisguised attempt to do harm to fellow countrymen at any cost with the help of outside forces.

The socalled "nuclear problem of the North" is no more than a fiction invented by the international reaction to stifle the socialist system of the DPRK.

Ridiculous is the behavior of the South Korean authorities who are clinging to the coat sleeves of outside forces to make fellow countrymen a scapegoat while turning a deaf ear to our repeated declaration that we have neither intention nor capacity to make nuclear weapons.

This fully shows that they are flunkeyists who have not a shred of national dignity and conscience and a group of traitors who only seek to isolate and stifle fellow countrymen, hand in glove with foreign forces.

Daily Denounces Remarks by ROK JCS Chairman

SK0807044493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 8 Jul 93

["Warmaniac's Hokum"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA)—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS] of the South Korean puppet army Yi Yang-ho at a meeting on July 6 let loose a war blast threatening the North, crying that "Preparations must be strengthened to cope with any situation" and a "resilient counter posture must be taken".

This balderdash clearly proves that the South Korean authorities are heinous traitors who are trying to ignite an adventurous war and plunge the fellow countrymen into a nuclear holocaust, totally refusing national reconciliation and unity.

Yi Yang-ho wagged his venomous tongue, charging the North with "increasing tensions on the Korean peninsula" by faking up fictions. Earlier, the South Korean ruler prattled that the "North is training Pyongyangites for one hour every day". This fully revealed the heinous intention of those who tell lies without shame.

This is, in the final analysis, a crafty ruse to justify their criminal new war provocation manoeuvres and isolate and stifle the North at any cost by misleading world opinion.

If the South Korean authorities continue to resort to new war provocation moves, not abandoning the anachronistic concept of confrontation, defying our repeated warnings, they will be held wholly responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

Daily Decries ROK Raising 'Nuclear Problem'

SK0807045793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 8 Jul 93

["Nuclear Racket Cannot Conceal Anti-national Crimes"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities are raising the solution of the "nuclear problem of the North" as a pre-condition for North-South dialogue and the implementation of the North-South agreement. They claim that their asking for permanent U.S. military occupation of South Korea, their war exercises, their maintenance of the "National Security Law", their blocking North-South contact and exchange and their refusal to accept the North-proposed exchange of special envoys are all attributable to the "nuclear problem of the North."

With such third-rate trick, the South Korean authorities cannot justify their criminal acts nor can they deceive the masses, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

The news analyst says:

The nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula arose when more than 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons were deployed in South Korea, posing constant nuclear threat to the North, and the successive rulers of South Korea promoted the development of nuclear weapons under the "nuclear umbrella" of a big power.

The "nuclear problem of the North" is a fiction invented by the reactionary forces of the world to stifle the DPRK, the bulwark of socialism.

The South Korean authorities are externally begging for protection and "cooperation" of big powers and internally whipping up confrontation and war fever, crying that they "cannot shake hands with a party possessed of nuclear weapons" and that "full war preparations should be made." This is a new criminal act blocking the road of peace and peaceful reunification of the country and threatening peace in Asia. It is self-evident that it will make outside forces fish in troubled waters and inflict national disaster on the fellow countrymen.

If the ruling forces of South Korea have the least concern for the survival of the nation, they must discard the sycophant and treacherous mode of thinking, take the position of national independence to resolve the problem of peace and reunification with the nation's own efforts and respond to the sincere efforts of the North to achieve reunification in the 1990s through great national unity.

U.S. Communist Party Hails Talks With DPRK

SK0507091193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 5 (KCNA)—The Communist Party of the United States of America on June 21 issued a statement on the results of the DPRK-USA talks.

Hailing the DPRK-U.S. joint statement which was adopted on June 11, the Communist Party of the USA in the statement said that the joint statement itself was a good advance. Trade unions and massive organisations for peace and human rights in the United States, statement said, should turn out for an early realisation of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement and demand Washington to withdraw the U.S. Forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea. This conforms with our own interests, the statement said, and stressed: We call for acting so from this time.

Leader Congratulates Workers' Party

SK0807105993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA)—A congratulatory message came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from Gus Hall, national chairman of the Communist Party of the United States of America, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

The message said that the victory of the heroic people and brave soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the Fatherland Liberation War showed that the U.S. imperialists are not unrivalled Armed Forces before the unity and struggle of the people and proved that the unity of socialism and national liberation forces is a great potential which can defeat imperialism.

The struggle today to defend the victory won by the Korean people 40 years ago demands the withdrawal of all the U.S. forces and atomic and chemical weapons from South Korea and the conversion of the whole of the Korean peninsula into a zone free from atomic and chemical weapons, the message noted, and stressed: On this historical occasion we wish the DPRK people greater success in the struggle for the building of socialism and the progress of the cause of the world peace.

Koreans in Japan Urge ROK Rulers To Change Policy

SK0307051493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo July 1 (KNS-KCNA)—The Association of Korean Residents in Japan for Peaceful Reunification strongly urges the South Korean authorities to effect a policy switch-over and take a correct attitude towards dialogue conforming to the spirit of great national unity, said chairman of the association Kim Chong-su in a statement Thursday.

Recalling that the chief executive of South Korea made remarks inciting confrontation at "a meeting of leading commanding officers of the whole army" some time ago and launched the "Ulchi-93" war game while foiling the exchange of special envoys proposed by the North, he branded their reckless behavior as an anti-national act going against peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

"The South Korean ruler," the statement noted, "after appearing on the scene with the motto of 'civilian government', said he wanted to have a North-South summit any time. But, contrary to his words, he is aggravating confrontation and tension between the North and the South.

Terming the North's "nuclear problem" raised by the South Korean present ruler as a new variety of the anti-communist confrontation slogan employed by the preceding rulers, he said:

"If they continue to lead the North-South relations to an acute confrontation over the North's "nuclear problem", it will only help outside forces to fish in troubled waters and spell the holocaust of nuclear war to our nation.

Foreign Party Leaders' Comments Noted

SK0507042493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0408 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 5 (KCNA)—Valentine Strasser, head of state and chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council of Sierra Leone, said when he met with the Korean ambassador that the government and people of Sierra Leone would make an active effort to further consolidate and develop the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries.

He expressed support to the struggle of the government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for national reunification under the wise guidance of His Excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Trino Manuel Melean, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela, met with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea and stressed that the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses in Korea is a factor of the victory of socialism.

The Communist Party of Venezuela fully supports the nuclear-free peace policy of the Korean peninsula and the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the Reunification of the country, he said.

Roland Atta-Kesson, national chairman of the National Congress Party of Ghana, said when he met the Korean ambassador to Ghana that the resolute stand and fighting experiences of the Workers' Party of Korea, a most authoritative party wisely led by the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, are a model for parties in revolutionary countries.

The National Congress Party of Ghana would, in the future, too, actively follow the experiences of the Workers' Party of Korea in its building, he stressed.

Russian Envoy Hosts Meeting on Treaty Anniversary

SK0707045693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 7 (KCNA)—Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev arranged a friendship meeting at his embassy on July 6 on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the two countries.

Invited there were Choe Ki-yong, chairman of the state education commission, Yi In-kyu, vice-minister of foreign affairs, Yi Pong-hui, vice-chairman of the DPRK Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee and chairman of the Korea-Russia Friendship Association, and other officials concerned.

Speeches were exchanged at the meeting.

Egyptian University Delegation Arrives 7 Jul

SK0707044893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 7 (KCNA)—A delegation of Ain Shams University of Egypt led by President 'Abd-al Muhammad al-Hafiz arrived here Tuesday by air.

It was met at the airport by president of the Academy of Chuche Idea Yi Chi-su.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Working People

SK0507043293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0417 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 5 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to Yi Han-u, director of the east Pyongyang stadium, working people in Tongdaewon and Songyo Districts, Pyongyang, Song Kyong-kun, designer of the Sariwon prospecting designing office, Pak Tae-cho, a worker of the Nampo shipbuilding complex, and his sisters and brothers and other working people and their families who set an example in consolidating the relations between the Army and the people.

They called on the People's Army soldiers who are defending the system of Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses as an impregnable fortress and congratulated and encouraged them on their success in combatant and political training, keeping the traditional traits of the unity of the Army and people in full bloom.

Daily Urges Greater Cement Production

SK0407041193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0010 GMT 3 Jul 93

[NODONG SINMUN 3 July editorial: "Let Us Make a Great Upsurge in Cement Production"]

[Text] Functionaries and working people are faced with a task of conducting a vigorous struggle to increase cement production under the party Central Committee's slogan issued on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We can successfully complete the ongoing construction projects of the main facilities only if we produce more cement by stabilizing production at all cement plants.

Cement is an important and necessary material for all construction. Only when we satisfactorily produce and supply cement can we accelerate overall construction, including basic construction, construction of dwellings, and cultural construction for the people's welfare. Then we can strengthen the foundation for a self-reliant economy as well as hasten improvement in our people's material and cultural lives.

Our people are now vigorously accelerating the construction of coal mines, power plants, and dwellings according to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address and the party Central Committee's slogan. In particular, builders and the People's Army soldiers constructing dwellings in Pyongyang city are trying vigorously to finish 30,000 houses this year, a significant year that marks the 40th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Satisfactorily producing and supplying cement is of great importance in brilliantly realizing the firm resolution of all builders and the People's Army soldiers who want to achieve with excellence our party's plan for the construction of the grand capital. Effecting a new upsurge in cement production is very important in vigorously accelerating the overall socialist economic construction and in displaying the superiority of our country's socialism more highly.

All functionaries and working people in the building materials industry must greatly increase cement production by upholding the party's intent to supply more cement to various sectors of the national economy. Above all, functionaries in the cement sector must methodically organize the great upsurge in cement production.

Functionaries are the commanding staff of the revolution. Experience shows that there is nothing that cannot be conquered when the leading functionaries plan the organizational work properly and invoke the abundant might of the masses in conformity with the actual condition of our country.

This year plants and enterprises in various sectors of the national economy, including the coal industry, are brilliantly fulfilling their targets for production by the day, month, and quarter by stabilizing production at a higher level. This is because functionaries in these sectors properly plan the political work, organizational work, and supply work with their high sense of the revolution and combatant power.

All functionaries in the building materials industry must cherish deep in their hearts a great awareness and responsibility for taking charge of the important guard posts in carrying out the revolution. They must go to the production sites to vigorously carry out the work with people with their struggling spirit and vigor shown during the state of semiwar. They must also set an example for carrying out difficult and hard work.

Functionaries in cement plant must scientifically initiate the organization of production as demanded by the Taean work system. They must make technological and economic progress in cement production by giving priority to the preparation of technological production.

Functionaries must always pay attention to raw material, material, and supply work when they dovetail. They must check and solve knotty problems in a timely manner.

It is now very important to fully operate the existing cement plants at full capacity. Today our country's capacity for cement production is also enormous.

The large-scale cement plants, including Sunchon Cement Complex, 8 February Cement Complex, and Sangwon Cement Complex, and other small- and medium-sized cement plants in rural communities must be operated at full capacity in order to effect a great upsurge in cement production.

All functionaries and working people who are building the material industry must remember that it is important to operate the existing cement plants at full capacity to satisfactorily meet the daily increasing demands for cement necessary for hastening national economic development. Therefore, they must vigorously conduct a struggle to operate the cement facilities at full capacity.

What is most important here is that we should properly manage the facilities. When we properly manage them, we can stabilize production at a higher level according to the supply of raw materials and materials.

All cement plants must further regularize and standardize enterprise management so that all workers can routinely repair and maintain the facilities with the high sense of the awareness that they have become masters of them. They can thoroughly observe the technological regulations and standard regulations of operation in production.

The role of the repair and maintenance shops must be enhanced to provide spare parts for the cement plants. Once they begin the repair and maintenance work, they must immediately carry it out in a timely manner.

All producers, including machine operators, must carefully and assiduously handle the cement production facilities and become familiar with them, being fully aware that they are masters of the country as well as masters of production.

To stabilize cement production at a higher level, limestone and gypsum must be satisfactorily provided. Therefore, all functionaries and working people in limestone mines must be fully aware of their responsibility for cement production. They must produce more limestone to provide for the cement plants in a timely manner, thus giving firm precedence to the removal of soil and rock and tunneling.

The stabilization of production at the cement plants at present is decisively dependent on how we produce and provide coal and electricity to them. The coal industrial sector must produce more good quality coal to be used in cement production. The railway transport sector must responsibly transport coal and limestone to the cement plants. The power industrial sector must produce more electricity to provide responsibly for the cement plants by operating power facilities at full capacity. Rural communities must properly provide raw materials, fuel, and materials to small- and medium-sized cement plants so that they can effect an upsurge in cement production. It is now very important to guarantee the full operation of the cement plants at full capacity to produce more cement. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The production capacity of the existing cement plants must be increased to the maximum in order to produce more cement. The building materials industrial sector and construction sector must effect a great upsurge in cement production. They must positively carry out the construction work of building more cement plants under a long-term construction project.

The enhancement of party organizations' role is very important. The party organizations at each level in building the materials industry must help cement plant workers be fully aware of what the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught on cement production and be fully aware of the party Central Committee's slogan. They must help cement producers be fully aware of the significance of cement production at present and fulfill their daily production targets as well as 10-day, monthly, and quarterly targets. They must lead them to positively seek out reserves to increase cement production with the spirit and vigor shown during the semi-war state period.

Let us vigorously participate in the struggle to decisively increase cement production by upholding the party's Central Committee on the 40th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War. Let us contribute to further strengthening the foundation for a self-reliant national economy and for displaying more highly the superiority of our country's socialism.

Shock Brigade Movement's 'Many Successes' Noted

SK0607225593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA)—The movement of the "April 15 technical innovation shock brigade" is being dynamically waged in the DPRK, registering many successes.

In the first half of this year, the shock brigades across the country have applied some 60,000 technical innovation proposals to give impetus to production and construction.

The brigaders in coal industry including those of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine, the Yongsu Coal Mine and the February 8 Chikdong Youth Coal Mine introduced technical innovations for the comprehensive mechanization of pit work and for the development of new pits as well as rational and efficient mining equipment, thus making it possible to considerably boost coal production.

The brigaders at hydraulic and thermal power stations across the country energetically conducted a technical innovation movement to increase the generating capacity to the maximum by well readjusting and reinforcing the equipment. The Hochongang Power Station made it possible to produce much more electricity with the same amount of water and equipment by heightening the level of modernization and scientification of the production processes.

The brigaders in railway transport, metal, machine and automation industries including the Kim Chong-tae Electric Locomotive Complex, the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, the Yongsong General Machine Bureau, the October 5 general automation works effected many technical innovation proposals of high value in stepping up chuche-orientation, modernization and scientification of the national economy.

This movement started early in the 80s has set it as its goal to solve scientific and technological problems arising in practice and introduce them in production and construction by forming technical innovation shock brigades with competent workers and technicians at industrial establishments throughout the country.

In the decade-long period since the start of this movement, one million or more technical innovation proposals were effected, saving much workforce and electric power, raw materials, fuel and other materials and rendering great profits to the state.

In the period some 10,000 inventors have emerged.

Literary Production Experiences 'Great Upswing'

SK0707104193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 7 (KCNA)—The Korean literary production has effected a great upswing in creating literary works on the threshold of the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the Fatherland Liberation War.

According to data available, it has created more than 1,200 novels, poems, dramas and juvenile literary works praising the greatness of the respected leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the past one year and a half.

The short story "Retrospection of Spring," the drama "Under the Banner of Victory," the long poem "Song of Victors," etc. successfully represent the chuche-based commanding art and imperishable feats of President Kim Il-song, an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander who led the Korean people to defeat two imperialisms in one generation.

The full-length novel "Desire of the Time," the poem "He is Our General," the epic "Burning Sun" and many other works profoundly depict the revolutionary feats and noble virtues of Comrade Kim Chong-il who has successfully carried forward the cause of army building with distinguished intelligence and unrivalled grit.

Scores of works singing of the great happiness and pride of the Korean people in having two great brilliant commanders were also created. Among them are the poem "Glory to Generalissimo Kim Il-song," the words of song "Longevity to You," the full-length novel "Long Live Humanity" and children's song "When We Look Up to the General."

Also created were many works including juvenile novel "Early Morning" and children's poem "Echo of Victory in War" which are suitable to the children's sentiments.

Symposium: Japan Sea Really 'East Sea of Korea'

SK0707004293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 6 (KCNA)—A scientific symposium of historians and geographers on the name of the East Sea of Korea [Sea of Japan] was held here today.

Those who took the floor at the symposium said in unison it was absolutely right to name the sea lying between Korea and Japan the East Sea of Korea.

They proved with historical data that the Koreans were the first to explore and use the sea and they named it.

The ancestors of Koreans began inhabiting the Korean peninsula one million years ago, settled down there from the neolithic era, proceeded into the east, west and South seas for fishing and emigrated to Japanese islands across the sea east of the Korean peninsula from several centuries B.C. and founded many minor countries.

In this course, the Koreans called from long ago the sea lying between Korea and Japan "East Sea" meaning that it is the sea east of the Korean peninsula, namely, the east sea of Korea.

The term "East Sea" can be seen in old records and documents of Korea which still remain. It is found in the epitaph of the tomb of King Kwanggaetho built in 414, in ten odd places of the "Samguksagi" (history of three dynasties) compiled in 1145, in several dozen places of "Samgukyusa" (historical records of three dynasties) compiled at the end of the 13th century and "Koryosa" (history of Koryo) compiled in 1451. The geographical position and boundary of the East Sea are defined in detail in "Sejongsillok" (true records of King Sejong) completed in 1454, the "Sinjungdonggukyojisungram" (newly supplemented handbook on Korean geography) compiled in 1530 and "Jungbomunhonbigo" (explanatory notes of supplemented documents) published in 1908.

According to historical data known so far, the sea lying between Korea and Japan was called "East Sea" meaning that it is the sea east of the Korean peninsula, namely, the east sea of Korea, for 2,000 years. The Japanese also called it so.

The speakers proved with concrete facts that it was right to call the sea lying between Korea and Japan the east sea of Korea in view of international usage and its inscription on the old maps of Japan and western countries. They said, among other things, that the sea was termed Korea sea on nearly all maps till the middle of the 19th century after it was written so on the "Indo-China Map" made by Guillaume de Lille, wellknown geographer of France, in 1705.

The speakers cited data to prove that, when the aggressive designs of the Japanese militarists on Korea became undisguised, the ruling circles and reactionary cartologists of Japan began to frame covert and crafty moves to change the name of the sea lying between Korea and Japan into "Japan Sea."

For instance, the territorial waters of Korea was described as "Korea Sea" and the territorial waters of Japan "Japan Sea" on the "Map of Japan" made around 1840. The Japanese militarists began to inscribe the whole sea lying between Korea and Japan "Japan Sea" from 1905 when they fabricated the "Ulsa 5-Point Treaty" after the Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War. From 1910 when the brigandish "Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty" was fabricated, they totally erased the name of "Korea Sea" together with the name of Korea on the world map and changed it into "Japan Sea."

The speakers stressed that the insistence on calling the sea lying between Korea and Japan "Japan Sea" as ever is absolutely unreasonable in that it is, in essence, aimed at justifying the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism over Korea and, furthermore, reviving it.

Social Scientists Hold Symposium in Japan

SK0707104693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 5 (KNS-KCNA)—A scientific symposium of Korean social scientists in Japan was held in Tokyo over July 3-4 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

At the symposium held on the subject "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation and prospect of national reunification in the 90s" reporters said that the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is a great political charter which indicates the way of opening a vista for reunification and national salvation in joint efforts of the nation by developing and enriching the chuche-based idea of great national unity in conformity with the desire of the nation for reunification.

Making an analysis of questions on the development of the movement for national reunification in South Korea and the prospect of national reunification in the 90s, they said that as the South Korean authorities promised to the nation through the North-South agreement to achieve peace and reunification of the country with the independent force of the nation, they must discard the idea of depending on outside forces, make a switchover to the stand of national independence and take the road of national reconciliation and unity, not antagonism and confrontation.

At the symposium papers were read, divided into politics, economy and philosophy subcommittee, education, languages and Chongnyon work subcommittee and history and geography subcommittee.

Letters to the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song and the dear leader Marshal Kim Chong-il were adopted there.

KCNA Reviews 8 Jul Pyongyang Press

SK0807051193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a message from Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat in reply to his message of greetings upon the latter's reelection as president of the state of Mongolia.

Papers say that "non-aligned information services must contribute to the people's cause of independence", the speech of the great leader President Kim Il-song at the fourth conference of the ministers of information of non-aligned countries was reported in different countries.

NODONG SINMUN carries news that Japanese figures sent solidarity messages to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on the publication of the DPRK-USA joint statement.

Works of Comrade Kim Chong-il are being deeply studied in different countries, according to papers.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that a public figure of Japan published an article about the exploits of Comrade Kim Chong-il in strengthening and developing the Workers' Party of Korea.

An article of the paper deals with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance displayed by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.

Papers print a solidarity message to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent by Victor Voichita, chairman of the Romanian Party for New Society, on the occasion of the month of international solidarity with the Korean people.

The paper in an article stresses that class education is an important form of education in the chuche idea for strengthening the driving force of revolution.

Econews of dailies includes reports about efforts made by the working people and the members of the three revolution team across the country to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war with signal achievements.

July-August sea sports months opened, according to dailies.

Papers give accounts of a meeting of Pyongyang students to mark the 4th anniversary of the publication of a joint declaration of students of the North and the South on the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and the letter to the one million students under the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) adopted at the meeting.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with a commentary rapping the South Korean authorities's anti-national crimes in worsening the North-South relations over the "nuclear problem of the North" and an article trouncing their criminal acts against dialogue and reunification.

MINJU CHOSON in an article says that if the present South Korean "government" really wanted to pursue "civilian politics", it must get rid of such fascist element as "Prime Minister" Hwang In-song.

Papers convey words of visitors to the Korean book, photo and handiwork exhibitions held in Switzerland and Romania.

Papers report that His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk appealed to the democratic Cambodian side to participate in the process of national reconcilation, the Yugoslav president reffered to the consequences of the UN sanctions against his country and the Ghanaian president called for the solution of disputes in the African continent.

NODONG SINMUN carries the second part of a serial article on the criminal acts of the Japanese imperialists in forging the "Ulsa 5-Point Treaty" in 1905 to reduce Korea to its colony.

South Korea

Foreign, Defense Ministries Differ Over U.S. Base Issue

SK0807003093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0013 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—As South Korea prepared to receive a visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton, differences of opinion have surfaced between the Foreign and Defense Ministries over the question of moving the U.S. military headquarters in Seoul.

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu told the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee Wednesday that the government will continue to negotiate with the United States to move the U.S. base from Yongsan to elsewhere in South Korea.

Han's clarification on the government position on the issue differed from the Defense Ministry's insistence that the question of moving the Yongsan U.S. base by 1996 be shelved for the time being because of huge monetary burden and difficulties in purchasing a new site.

Rep. Yi U-chong of the opposition Democratic Party said that the problem of moving the U.S. military base from Yongsan is important not because it would cost a lot of money but because it is a question of pride of an independent nation.

With regard to the establishment of an agency for ethnic Koreans, Foreign Minister Han reiterated the ministry's opposition to the proposal saying that it could only help the central government grow bigger and uselessly stimulate the expectations of Koreans living abroad.

Commenting on the recent trend of arms race among Asian countries, Han said the South Korean Government was working to form a regional cooperative organization in order to deal with the problem. Han said he believed that unlike in Europe, it would be difficult for Asian and Pacific nations to establish a multilateral security body in the region. But he said it is desirable, nevertheless, to form a regional cooperative organization to discuss security, economic and political issues since the region still retains the remnants of the Cold War.

Security Measures Increased for Clinton Visit

SK0807012993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0117 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—The National Police Agency posted Thursday a second-class emergency guard in entire Seoul and Kyonggi Province in a preemptive security precaution prior to U.S. President Bill Clinton's arrival in Seoul Saturday [[10 July]. The police in other provinces were instructed to step up their security measures as well.

The police handed out a directive urging its men in security, crime prevention and traffic departments to put off their seasonal leaves until after Sunday when Clinton is to leave the country.

Han Sung-chu: Clinton To Offer Security Framework

SK0807104393 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1015 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] It has been learned that U.S. President Clinton will make an important proposal to build a new Asia-Pacific regional security system in his speech at the National Assembly during his visit to our country.

In a meeting with reporters, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu today said that President Clinton has prepared two important declarations related to Asia for his visit to the ROK and Japan. Foreign Minister Han added that in addition to the New Pacific Community Plan he proposed yesterday, President Clinton will also make a proposal to build a Northeast Asian security system during his visit to the ROK.

Seoul To Support Clinton's 'Pacific Community' Plan

SK0807020993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0129 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea will support U.S. President Bill Clinton's proposal to set up a new Pacific community, a ranking Foreign Ministry official said Thursday. The official said that because President Kim Yong-sam has supported an economic summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) nations, the government "strongly" supports Clinton's new Pacific community plan which is an extension of the APEC.

"The new Pacific community as proposed by the U.S. Government must be established only through an APEC summit," he said, requesting anonymity.

The APEC economic summit, slated for November in Seattle, would focus on regional trade and investment liberalization and would also touch on regional security as a matter of course, he said.

"Clinton's proposal could possibily materialize when the APEC summit takes on a strong characteristic of community meeting," he said. "For this, there must be a joint effort to fasten regional bond and solidarity and increase mutual understanding of the regional countries."

Clinton, now in Tokyo to attend the Group of Seven (G-7) summit, made the proposal while giving a speech at Waseda University Wednesday [7 July].

DP Prepared To Present Demands to Clinton

SK0807025993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—The opposition Democratic Party [DP] has decided to urge U.S. President Bill Clinton to make sure that Washington maintain close consultation and take concerted steps with Seoul in the course of its talks with Pyongyang on the nuclear issue. Putting final touches on its position on Clinton's visit to Seoul, the main opposition party decided to call on Clinton to withhold U.S. pressure for the opening of the South Korean rice market and relax import restrictions on South Korean steel products. The party will explain to Clinton about the need for the South Korean financial market be opened only on a gradual basis, party officials said.

The party, winding up a meeting of senior post-holders aimed at finalizing the party's official position on Clinton's visit, also said, "We ardently welcome President Clinton's visit. We do not doubt that his visit will help reaffirm the traditional firm alliance between the two countries and, thereby, become an opportunity conducive for the maintenance of peace and stability of the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia."

A statement issued by the party said, "Clinton's visit has a great significance in that it enables a first summit between the two countries since new administrations were inaugurated in the countries."

DP Officials Argue Over Clinton's Assembly Speech

SK0807063293 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 8 Jul 93 p 4

[Article by reporter Yang Sang-hun from the "News-Behind-News" column]

[Text] During their 7 July meeting, Democratic Party [DP] executive officials debated over the "unpleasantness" of having U.S. President Clinton address the ROK National Assembly on a Saturday afternoon.

At the meeting, Rep. Yi Pu-yong, a chairman of the party, said that "a dignified state should not agree with such scheduling" and claimed that "if the opposition party does not attend the Assembly session during Clinton's Assembly speech, his position in the United States would worsen remarkably." Rep. Yi added that "holding summit talks over the weekend is also a problem."

To this, however, Rep. Cho Sun-sung, known to be an expert in international affairs, objected, stating that "summit talks have been held over the weekend on many occasions."

Meanwhile, Rep. Han Kwang-ok supported Rep. Yi Pu-yong, saying that "regardless, making a speech on a Saturday afternoon is unpleasant." However, Rep. Kwon No-kap, a chairman of the party, stressed that "an Assembly session can be held at any time, be it Saturday, Sunday, or even at night." Thus, refuting their claims, he called on all party members to "attend and listen to the speech of the president of an ally which is scheduled to be delivered on a Saturday afternoon due to his itinerary."

A Foreign Ministry official commented on these arguments by saying: "Many countries attempted to invite the U.S. President for just a day. Should diplomacy only be conducted on weekdays?"

Students Plan Demonstrations Against Clinton Visit

SK0807054793 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 8 July 93 p 14

[By Kwangju-based reporter Song Tu-yong]

[Text] The Kwangju and South Cholla District Federation of General Student Associations [Namchongnyon] announced that it will stage demonstrations "to oppose Clinton's visit to the ROK on 10 July and to stop the opening of the rice markets." Thus, clashes [with police] are expected to take place.

Namchongnyon is going to hold a rally in front of Kwangju Park in Kwidong, So-ku, for adopting a resolution "to stop the opening of rice markets and to oppose Clinton's visit to the ROK" at 1700 [0800 GMT] on 8 July.

Plan 9 Jul Rally Near Shilla Hotel

SK0807080993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0759 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—Police were alerted Thursday as Hanchongnyon or the Federation of Korean University Student Councils were known Thursday to be planning to stage a mass rally Friday [9 July] opposing U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Seoul over the weekend. Police said they had learned of Hanchongnyon's plan to mobilize some 3,000 students into a rally on the campus of Tongguk University near the Shilla Hotel where White House officials are staying to oppose Clinton's visit and the rice market opening. An intelligence report has it that Hanchongnyon will lead the demonstrators to march to the U.S. Embassy and the Shilla Hotel.

As Tongguk University is only 700 meters away from the Shilla Hotel where some 140 people of the advance party of Clinton's entourage are staying, police will deploy some 2,500 riot police troops along the main and rear gates of the university and around the hotel to contain the students in the campus and block the roads to the hotel.

Also tipped off that 600 students would block Clinton's motorcade by surprise, police will tighten the security network along the roads the motorcade will pass from the Seoul airport to Chongwadae [presidential offices].

The national league of farmers also plans to hold a rally opposing the government's new agricultural plan and Clinton's visit to press for the rice market opening at the Myongdong Catholic Cathedral on Saturday afternoon and to lead a march of farmers from the cathedral to Pagoda Park in downtown Seoul. Although the rally was approved, police will tighten security network around the cathedral to prepare for an abrupt development of the rally into a violent street demonstration.

Dissident Group Delivers Letter to U.S. Embassy

SK0807131393 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1236 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification [Chongukyonhap] visited the U.S. Embassy located on Sejong Street, Seoul. They delivered an open letter to U.S. President Clinton.

Chongukyonhap claimed in the letter that urgent issues between the ROK and the United States have been treated in a unilateral way that only considered U.S. prime interests. Chongukyonhap also urged in the letter that pressure to open the rice market be stopped, North Korea's nuclear issue be peacefully resolved, and the relocation of U.S. military base at Yongsan progress as scheduled.

Seoul To Use Inter-Korean Channels To Resolve DPRK Issue

SK0807030593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0250 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea will try to resolve the North Korean nuclear problem using both inter-Korean and international means, a senior government official said Thursday. Han Wan-sang, duputy prime minister and national unification minister, made the remark in a bull session an South-North dialogue with members of the National Assembly's Foreign and Unification Affairs Committee.

"The government will do its best to solve the nuclear problem through inter-Korean talks as well as international means," Han said.

"The government considers the North Korean nuclear problem as a top priority issue," he said. "We will make multilateral efforts for its solution while trying not to build up tension on the Korean peninsula or give North Korea enough time (to develop nuclear weapons)."

North Korea announced months ago that it would withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], arousing suspicion in the internation community that it might be trying to develop nuclear weapons. It has since suspended its decision to leave the NPT.

Han added, "We expect that North Korea will positively respond to our continuous efforts for the resumption of inter-Korean talks. That will be beneficial to North Korea in its effort to maintain its current system."

Han Sung-shu Views Prospects for Talks With North

SK0807115393 Seoul YONHAP in English 1142 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said on Thursday that if there is a major progress at the upcoming second-phase meeting between North Korea and the United States, South Korea could promise talks with North Korea on a set of major issues pending between the two Koreas.

"If the North Korea-U.S. meeting opening in Geneva on July 14 proves fruitful, we could promise talks with North Korea on inter-Korean economic cooperation and the Team Spirit military issue," Minister Han said. The minister was quick to add, however, that if the Geneva meeting turns out a failure, there will be no further talks between North Korea and the United States. He said that if it fails, the North Korean nuclear issue will be directly referred to the U.N. Security Council, which he said will act on sanction against North Korea.

Discussing U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Seoul, the foreign minister said Clinton is likely to renew his call for the creation of a New Pacific Community in his address at the National Assembly. The U.S. President would also discuss the idea of collective security in Northeast Asia and North Korea's nuclear issue, Han said.

During his summit meeting with President Kim Yong-sam, Minister Han said, Clinton is expected to make it express again that there will be no change in the U.S. existing security role in and commitment to Asia. [sentence as received]

Daily Praises G-7 Commitment on DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK0807043793 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Jul 93 p 6

[Editorial: "G-7 Summit and Korea"]

[Text] The Group of Seven (G-7) economic summit has opened for a three-day run in Tokyo to discuss the global economy and bilateral problems with an emphasis on seeking ways of bailing it out from the worldwide economic slump. The 19th summit is expected to issue a political declaration today and an economic one tomorrow, summing up the outcome of the conference.

However, the leaders of the world have found it difficult to compromise on the economy, trade and particularly policies toward Russia and Bosnia, as they are beset with their own political and economic woes at home. Moreover, waning political influence of some participants in the meeting has cast dismal prospects over the summit's achievements.

But as far as Korea is concerned, the otherwise lackluster summit is expected to come up with a firm resolve to cope with North Korea's nuclear weapons development program, the summit being aware that the nuclear question concerns not just the Korean peninsula but also world security and peace. It is reassuring to hear that U.S. President Bill Clinton has declared that the United States will maintain its military presence in Asia and will honor its security commitments if North Korea builds nuclear weapons.

Clinton's clear-cut stance against the North's nuclear ambition is naturally welcomed by South Korea and neighboring Japan, whose national security relies on the U.S. nuclear umbrella. At the same time, firm U.S. security commitments in Northeast Asia could keep Asian nations, especially Japan, from running the risk of producing nuclear weapons.

With reports reaching here that North Korea has gained a considerable nuclear capability including the development of an atomic bomb delivery system, it is imperative for South Korea, Japan and the U.S. to exert joint efforts to block the North's secret nuclear plan.

On the occasion of Clinton's Seoul visit Saturday [10 July], leaders of the two countries are expected to thrash out a common anti-nuclear strategy which may well serve as a strong message against the North's nuclear program. As U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher put it in Tokyo, there should be no wasting time in attempts to prevent the North Korean nuclear development.

Official: DPRK Test-Fired Nodong-1's in May

SK0807093693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0910 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] It seems that North Korea will deploy Nodong-1's, the long-range missiles with 1,000-km range, for actual combat use by 1995 or so. A high-ranking official of the National Unification Board today said that the government ascertained that North Korea test-fired four 1,000-km Nodong-1's from a missile-firing range in Hwatae County, North Hamgyong Province this 25 May. Two of the missiles hit targets in the East Sea 500 km and 1,000 km away.

Kim Tae-chung Returns After 5 Months in Britain

SK0407105293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1012 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 4 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, former leader and presidential candidate of the opposition Democratic Party, returned home Sunday afternoon after winding up his five-month study in Britain. The retired politician has reiterated that he would not be involved in politics again and that he would devote himself to study and writings on the issues of reunification of the Korean peninsula and democratization of Asia.

Kim, who announced his retirement from politics shortly after his defeat in the December presidential election, left Korea Jan. 26 to conduct research on the integration of Europe and Germany's reunification at Cambridge University in Britain.

Reaffirms Retirement From Politics

SK0507004093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0019 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 5 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, former chairman of the opposition Democratic Party and presidential candidate, returned home from more than five months of sojourn in Britain Sunday, and reaffirmed his decision not to return to politics.

Kim, accompanied by his wife, Yi Hui-ho, left here Jan. 26, following his defeat in the December presidential election to conduct research on unification and other political issues at Cambridge University.

At a press conference at the airport's VIP lounge, Kim asked reporters to treat him just as their "friend Kim Tae-chung" and not to expect him to resume his political life or try to misconstrue his intention. Declaring that President Kim Yong-sam's reform policy must succeed, his erstwhile opponent vowed that he would render his support for it as a matter of course.

"President Kim has worked hard for reform thus far and was able to score considerable successes in a number of fields," Kim Tae-chung said, adding that he sincerely hoped that the president's legal and systematic reform will be successful.

Kim Tae-chung said he would continue to work for unification of the country and for peace and stability of Asia based on research and experience he had accumulated during his stay in Britain. As a result of his study, he said, he has arrived at "a tentative conclusion" that the two Koreas can reunite without repeating a mistake made by Germany. Kim said he was going to report on it to the people soon.

Later at his home in Tongkyo-tong, Kim told reporters that he will decide whether he will meet with President Kim "after seeking the opinion of the people." He thus indicated a meeting between the two Kims was not forthcoming.

"There is no reason I cannot meet President Kim," he said, "but there is nothing for me to talk about at this time."

Favors U.S., Japan Ties With DPRK

SK0807091593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0818 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, former chairman of the opposition Democratic Party, has called on the United States and Japan to establish diplomatic ties with North Korea first in order to provide the groundwork for a gradual unification of the two Koreas, ASAHI SHIMBUN reported Thursday.

The mass-circulation Japanese daily quoted Kim as saying that such diplomatic nomalizations would help North Korea construct its economy and be conducive for a step-by-step process of unification. In an interview he had in London before leaving for home last week, Kim also urged North Korea to stay in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) so that it could avoid being forced into further isolation from the rest of the world.

North Korea announced its decision to withdraw from the NPT months ago, arousing international suspision that it might be trying to develop nuclear weapons. It has since suspended that decision.

Kim reiterated the principle of his three-stage unification formula and said, "it is unnatural that tension remains on the Korean peninsula even after the cold war between the two superpowers—United States and the former Soviet Union—came to an end. Something should be done to get rid of this cold war structure.

"Before long, North Korea will be forced to make a choice on whether it will hold fast to the current policy of isolation and intransigence or change to an open-door policy," he added.

He said, "someone said that North Korea will not change as long as President Kim Il-song remains in power," Kim said.

"But we don't have to be pessimistic. North Korea entered the United Nations simultaneouly with South Korea under the Kim regime. It is evidence that North Korea is deciding its policy flexibly, observing the world's trend," he said.

"You should not underestimate this basic change of North Korea," Kim added.

DPRK Trade Increases 3.7 Percent Over 1992

SK0807033493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0142 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 8 (YONHAP)—The total amount of North Korea's external trade last year increased 3.7 percent from the previous year to 2.8 billion U.S. dollars, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) said Wednesday.

JETRO estimated that North Korea's exports reached 1.29 billion dollars, up 18.4 percent from 1991. Since North Korea does not make its trade statistics public, JETRO had to estimate the amount of trade by consulting statistics of customs clearance in 25 countries trading with North Korea. Its exports to South Korea grew 54.0 percent last year while those to China skyrocketed 81.5 percent thanks to increases in exports of iron and steel and metal products. Total imports decreased 6.4 percent from 1991 to 1.51 billion dollars.

China was North Korea's biggest trade partner, importing and exporting 730 million dollars worth of goods, followed by Japan with its two-way trade volume reaching 480 million dollars and South Korea 150 million dollars.

Inter-Korean trade sharply increased 56.2 percent last year from 1991, accounting for the highest increasing rate than those of any other nation trading with North Korea.

Strikes Cost Hyundai Export of 21,837 Cars

SK0707120893 Seoul YONHAP in English 1135 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 7 (YONHAP)—Workers' strikes at the Hyundai Motor Co. and its major parts supplier in Ulsan have cost the exports of 21,837 cars worth about 163.7 million dollars as of Wednesday, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy estimated. A ministry official said that a single day's general strike costs the company and the nation 4,000 cars including 1,400 cars bound for exports.

The exports loss of 21,837 cars include 17,700 caused by a strike at the Apollo Industrial Co., a parts supplier of Hyundai Motor, in May and June. The total loss suffered by the Hyundai Motor and its suppliers due to the strikes reached 785.8 billion won so far this year, the official said.

Chairman Will Not Negotiate

SK0707121793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1132 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Ulsan, July 7 (YONHAP)—Chong Se-yong, chairman of the Hyundai Business Group, said on Wednesday he would not negotiate with Hyonchongnyon or the Federation of Hyundai Group labor unions under any circumstances. Amid Hyonchongnyon-led strikes paralyzing the business of some Hyundai firms here in Ulsan, Chong branded Hyonchongnyon as a "seditious organization formed among dissidents and dismissed workers." Chong, however, backed down from his previous position that Hyundai firms would hold fast to a 4.7 percent wage increase ceiling this year.

"We should respect the 4.7 percent hike in a sense to share pains, but if any individual Hyundai firms have unavoidable reasons, they may adjust the ceiling," he said.

At a press conference held at the Hyundai Cultural Hall at Yangjong-tong, Ulsan, Chong said that just like workers' labor rights should be respected, industries' personnel and management rights should be guaranteed along with the right to properties.

He made it clear that he cannot accept unions' demand for the composition of personnel and disciplinary committees with the same numbers of people from the labor and management.

Unions Scale Down Strike

SK0807072193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0649 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Ulsan, July 8 (YONHAP)—After a concerted general strike on Wednesday, all but one of the nine Hyundai Group firms here saw the work stoppage easing Thursday as labor and management resumed wage negotiations at several firms. Union workers at Hyundai Construction Equipment Co. continued their strike for the second straight day Thursday following their decision to stop working until Saturday. Workers at Hyundai Motor Co. relaxed from a general sit-in on Wednesday to a 10-hour stoppage out of the 24-hour workday on Thursday and their union resumed negotiations with the company's management at 10:30 AM.

Responding to the prosecution's search of the office of Hyonchongnyon (the Federation of Hyundai Unions) on Wednesday and its plan to arrest Hyonchongnyon leaders, the Hyundai Motor Co. Union threatened to continue the sit-in and to stage even street demonstrations, if the government tried to settle the disputes with force. It then called for a meeting of the Hyundai Group, the Labor Ministry and Hyonchongnyon.

Unionists at Hyundai Precision Industry Co. normalized their work on Thursday, though they refused to do overtime. Collective bargaining resumed at Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. and Hyundai Wood Industrial Co., and workers of these two firms eased their general strike on Wednesday to a partial strike on Thursday. Also eased to partial strikes were job actions at Hyundai Electrical Engineering Co., Hyundai Pipe Co., Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co. and Korea Flange Co.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office has decided to deal flexibly with the labor disputes at Hyundai companies in Ulsan, as unions of these firms eased the concerted strike to a partial work stoppage and resumed collective bargaining on Thursday. Senior Prosecutor Choe Hwan said that since the disputes showed signs of turning for the better, the prosecution will flexibly deal with them, depending on developments of the situation. Commenting on the raid on Hyonchongnyon's office, he said detectives found enough evidence supporting the prosecution of Hyonchongnyon leaders on charges of involvement in the labor disputes as a third party.

The prosecution would seek arrest warrants against such additional Hyonchongnyon leaders as Yi Su-won and O Chong-soe as soon as evidence supporting the warrants is obtained, he added.

BAI To Refer Six to Prosecution in Yulgok Probe

SK0807033293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0135 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—The Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) will wind up its investigation into the Yulgok military buildup plan on Friday or Saturday and refer six former defense and security officials to the prosecution on charges of accepting bribery. BAI Secretary General Hwang Yong-ha said Thursday the probe would be concluded within the week, earlier than the schedule. But a decision to question former President No Tae-u would be decided after studying the U.S. material on the Yulgok plan now under request, Hwang added.

The six officials to be prosecuted on bribery charges include former Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku and former Senior Presidential Secretary for Foreign Affairs and National Security Kim Chong-whi. No incumbent defense officials, nor active-duty military officers, are among them, Hwang said.

Asked if BAI Chairman Yi Hoi-chang had consulted with President Kim Yong-sam about the earlier conclusion of the probe when he visited Chongwadae Wednesday morning, Hwang said, "The BAI has never consulted with Chongwadae about the probe."

The BAI's earlier announcement that the probe would be concluded between July 13 and 20 was based on the normal flow of work in the BAI, he explained.

To Reveal Results of Investigation

SK0807091193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0802 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—The Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) will make public the results of its investigation of alleged irregularities in the nation's military buildup program called the Yulgok project, the BAI announced Thursday. A board official said BAI Chairman Yi Hoi-chang will hold a press conference at the board office to explain the investigation results in detail and answer journalists' questions. He is also expected to disclose the BAI's position on the delicate issue of whether it will question former President No Tae- u.

The BAI held a special meeting of commissioners Thursday afternoon to wind up the "Yulgok special inspection." The BAI inspectors have questioned 15 former and current military officials to find out whether they had received bribes from arms dealers or manufacturers while in office.

Officer Arrested for 'Perpetrating Terrorism'

SK0807032193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0113 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—The military prosecution has arrested a lieutenant colonel on charges of organizing a civilian group and perpetrating terrorism against opposition politicians in the mid-1980s.

Lt. Col. Yi Sang-pom, 44, of the Defense Intelligence Command was taken into custody Wednesday night [7 July] after he had admitted that he directed the group to break into the house of the then dissident leader Kim Yong-sam and steal documents in 1985. Yi was also charged of having his terrorist group of ex-convicts discharged from an Army Special Forces unit beat up the then opposition New Democratic Party Vice President Yang Sun-chik in April 1986.

Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae approved Yi's arrest Wednesday night, officials said.

Yi confessed that his superior, then Colonel Han Chinku, 53, who headed the division three of the command, had ordered him to steal some documents from Kim Yong-sam's house in October 1985. Han, a retired brigadier general now acting as the representative of a country club in Songnam, denied the allegtion.

The Defense Ministry joint investigation unit said it will continue the investigation to find out whether other ranking officers in the command were involved in the incident.

Retired General Admits Organizing 'Terrorist Group'

SK0807064893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0540 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 8 (YONHAP)—The defense joint investigation unit said Thursday that a retired army brigadier general, Han Chin-ku, admitted Wednesday he organized a civilian group for terrorism against opposition politicians in mid-1980s when he was heading division three of the Military Intelligence Command. Han, currently representative of a country club in Songnam, made the confession when asked by military interrogators about whether he was involved in a few acts of political terrorism in mid-1980s as has been claimed by one of his immediate subordinates.

Earlier, Lt. Col. Yi Sang-pom of the command admitted he had directed some terrorist attacks against opposition politicians on Han's orders. Han was then a colonel. Yi was arrested by the military prosecution Wednesday night.

Han said he had organized the terrorist group because of his loyalty to the then Chon Tu-hwan government and the terrorist acts were perpetrated without consulting his superiors, prosecution officials said.

Some members of the group broke into the house of then opposition leader Kim Yong-sam in October 1985 and stole name cards, calendar and cassettes, but later burned them to hide evidence, Han said.

The military prosecution will investigate two or three more officers in connection with the incident, prosecution officials said.

Lockheed Denies Illegal Action in F-16 Sales

SK0307100593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0744 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 3 (YONHAP)—The Lockheed Corp., the manufacturer of F-16 fighter planes, said here on Saturday the American company had never made any illegal influence-peddling in connection with the selection by South Korea of F-16's as its next-generation fighter planes. In a press release, Lockheed specifically said it had not engaged in any undue business activities like the offering of bribes.

"All our activities were made honestly and sincerely as was confirmed during an inspection by the U.S. General Accounting Office in 1991," it said.

The company said they are confident that the on-going inspection by the South Korean Government would also reaffirm that all business activities it made were correct and justifiable.

KBS Signs Broadcasting Pact With Iran

SK0607092893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0826 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 6 (YONHAP)—Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) signed an agreement on cooperation in broadcasting with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) on Tuesday, KBS announced. Hong Tu-pyo, KBS president, met with IRIB President Mohammad Hashemi at the KBS head office and signed an agreement on exchanges of news and co-production of programs.

A KBS official said, "This is the first time that the broadcasting companies of the two countries have ever agreed to cooperate with each other in news and other programs."

IRIB President Hashemi, younger brother of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, arrived here on Monday [5 July] for a four-day visit.

IRIB Chief Meets Premier, Speaker

LD0707212993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, chief of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRIB], who is visiting South Korea at the head of a delegation, had separate meetings with that country's prime minister and parliamentary speaker on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the South Korean prime minister described the Iranian delegation's visit to his country as important and called on the Iranian Government to use its influence to promote the unity of the two Koreas.

On behalf of himself and the Korean nation, the South Korean prime minister also congratulated Mr. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his re-election as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and stressed the expansion of the two countries' commercial, cultural, and industrial ties.

During the meeting, Mr. Mohammad Hashemi invited the South Korean prime minister to visit our country on behalf of the first vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On Wednesday, Mr. Mohammad Hashemi and his accompanying delegation also met and conferred with the speaker of the South Korean Parliament. During the meeting, they stressed the need to expand and strengthen the two countries' relations.

The IRIB chief also visited on Wednesday South Korea's second radio and television network MBS, and at a meeting with the head of the network discussed the two countries' radio and television activities as well as news and program exchanges. During the meeting, the MBS chief called for the IRIB chief's cooperation in producing programs on issues facing the Islamic world.

Armed Forces Personnel To Be Restructured

SK0607090193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0753 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 6 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will reduce the strength of its Army by around 1.5 percent by 1997 but increase the manpower of Navy and Air Forces by 8 percent each, a Defense Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

According to the ministry's plan on the regular strength of Armed Forces and manpower structure improvement, the number of general-grade officers, which is now exceeding the quorum, will gradually fall by 1997 to be within the quorum. The number of field-grade officers will be frozen and that of non-commissioned officers, who are called on to have special skills, will rise slightly.

The plan aims at adjusting the military power structure, which is now built around the army, to a balanced one among the three branches of the Armed Forces and to maximize the speciality and professionalism.

The plan was based on the recognition that the nation's Armed Forces should be able to respond quickly and actively to possible North Korean provocations and cope with the changing strategic surroundings. It is also based on the necessity to run the Armed Forces effectively within the defense budget.

The reduced personnel in Army will be around 8,000-9,000 men. With the implementation of the plan, South Korean Armed Forces' parity will be 1 colonel, 2.7 lieutenant colonels, 4.5 majors and 8.0 captains.

Armed Forces Day Activities To Be Reduced

SK0707085493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0807 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 7 (YONHAP)—The government will sharply reduce the scale of the Oct. 1 Armed Forces day activities from this year, the Defense Ministry said Wednesday. The ministry said, in a report filed with the National Assembly Defense Committee, that a decision has been made to reduce the frequency of the Armed Forces day ceremonies to once in every five years from the current once in three years.

Street parade will be dropped from the function program and the venue for the troop-reviewing session will no longer be the Yoido plaza. The report said it will be conducted at Kyeryongdae near Taejon.

The number of troops taking part in the parade will be reduced to 2,456 or one tenth of the past. The number of planes flying to celebrate the occasion will drop to 104 from 200. Artillery pieces and other heavy equipment will not be employed at all.

Expenditure itself will be cut sharply to 1.9 billion won from 3.99 billion won in 1990.

The number of invited guests will fall to 800 from 50,000 and the ceremony will take only 55 minutes, a steep drop from two hours, the officials said.

Supreme Court Finalizes Plans for Judicial Reforms

SK0607061293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] The Supreme Court finalized a plan on judicial reform yesterday amid ever-mounting pressure from progressive lawyers to clean itself for a fresh start in the wake of the inauguration of the civilian-led government.

To that end, the Supreme Court will review and rewrite various relevant regulations and code of conducts, a spokesman said after the emergency meeting of chief judges of courts across the nation.

The spokesman said that the opinions of junior judges will be reflected in the new regulations to a great extent.

The reform plan includes a ban on access by lawyers to offices of court judges in an effort to prevent possible collusion between them in connection with court trials.

It also provides that the meetings of chief judges of courts at various levels will be held regularly to be used as a channel to reflect opinions of ordinary judges in the execution of laws.

The hierarchical organization of the court and the personnel management of judges will be overhauled to ensure fair management, according to the plan.

In this vein, the spokesman said, chief judges at lower courts will be included in the personnel management committee which has so far comprised mainly judges of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court will draft a revision bill to the Court Organization Law so that it may be submitted to the regular session of the National Assembly which opens in September.

The finalized plan on judicial reform came days after the Korean Bar Association and other groups of progressive lawyers called for a drastic reform in the judiciary.

In particular, they urged politically-oriented judges, including some of incumbent judicial leaders, to step down, reflecting upon themselves for their verdict on opposition figures at the mercy of the authoritarian government.

Government Intervenes To Keep Firms From Bankruptcy

SK0607061193 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Jul 93 p 8

[Text] Exactly 255 small- and mid-sized companies plus 413 self-employed businesses went down in April, the month the latest figures on national corporate insolvency are available.

The total 668 April business failures represent a 16 percent drop from the 795 bankruptcies registered in the same month in 1992, according to a Ministry of Finance statistics.

Barring any significant setback to the national economy in the coming months, the corresponding figure will fall even further from next January, thanks to two major business-related decisions announced by the government over the weekend.

Under an agreement reached between the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the government, prosecutors will in principle investigate the issuers of dishonored checks without physically detaining them.

That marks an important about-face from the decades-old policy calling for unconditional arrest of bankrupt businessmen, in disregard of reasons behind their failures and the amounts of bad checks, a practice that resulted in numerous corporate demises that otherwise may have been prevented.

The new rule, however, will have the prosecutors take into account in deciding the businessmen's arrests such factors as the cause of insolvency, the number of employees, opinions of the companies' labor unions and creditors, the type of businesses the companies were in and the chances of their resurrection.

It also encourages the prosecutors to drop the cases after entire amounts of dishonored checks have been retrieved.

Most eye-catching in the revision of the Illegal Check Regulation Act to be submitted to the National Assembly plenary session this fall, will be a clause stipulating non-punishment of rubber check drawers if and when victims do not press charges.

The measure, in part aimed at helping to revitalize the dormant economy, also reflects the new administration's more flexible law enforcement stance, economic and legal experts here said yesterday. The previous system, in practice since the start of military regime in early 1960s, has been the target of criticism among businessmen as unparalled in the world by penalizing civil cases with criminal laws.

The new relaxed system, however, has its pitfalls, the analysts said. As always, there will be abusers of the flexible rules who chronically or intentionally fail to honor their checks, they said. The disruption of credit because of sharply reduced credibility of checks resulting from the alleviated penalties was the main reason cited by the Ministry of Justice in opposing the new system.

Such disruption will likely lead to more bad debts on the part of financial institutions, which is, needless to say, detrimental to the banks' self-regulative management.

In another change of rules regarding corporate bankruptcy, the government will enable insolvent companies to borrow from financial institutions for one month after their first failure to pay matured bills and checks.

Currently, the banks reclassify such companies as "red-color" clients, banning all additional lending to them. The banks also reported the insolvencies if a company failed to honor its bills for the second time in a year but will do so from now on only after the third failure.

Pharmaceutical, Agriculture Technology Imports Down

SK0607060793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0507 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 6 (YONHAP)—The introduction of foreign technology in the nation's food, pharmaceutical, agricultural and livestock industries was sluggish last year due to overall economic slump, officials said Tuesday. The trend continued in the first four months of this year, they said.

The foreign techonology introduction in those sectors totaled 16.79 million dollars in 28 cases in 1992, up from 24 cases a year earlier but significantly down in royalty payments which amounted to 25.8 million dollars in 1991. All domestic industries introduced foreign techonology in 533 cases worth 850.63 million dollars last year, down 8.4 percent in cases and 28.1 percent in royalty payments from 582 cases worth 1,183.8 million dollars in the previous year.

In the first four months of this year, the food, pharmaceutical, agricultural and livestock industries paid 6.32 million dollars for foreign technology in nine cases, down from 13.96 million dollars for 13 cases in the same period of last year.

The royalty payments by the agricultural and livestock industry decreased last year to 1.2 million dollars from 1.7 million dollars in 1991, while those of the food industry shrank 38.5 percent to 8.85 million dollars (12 cases) from 14.4 million dollars (six cases) in the same period.

The pharmaceutical industry paid 6.74 million dollars for 14 cases of foreign techonology transfer, down 30.5 percent from 9.7 million dollars (18 cases) in the previous year.

In the first four months of this year, the agricultural industry paid 790,000 dollars for royalty, sharply down from 9.48 million dollars in the same period of last year, while the food industry saw a 36.7 percent increase from 2.51 million dollars to 3.43 million dollars.

As for the pharmaceutical industry, the payments rose 6.6 percent from 1.97 million dollars to 2.1 million dollars during the same period.

Kim Chong-pil, 'New Military Elite' Disagree Over Claim

SK0307063993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0607 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 3 (YONHAP)—A verbal tug of war is going on between ruling Democratic Liberal Party chairman Kim Chong-pil and the new military elite led by former President Chon Tu-hwan over Kim's claim that he was stripped of antiques by them in May 1980. A close associate of Kim said on Saturday that some armed people of the joint investigation headquarters on President Pak Chong-hui's assassination pushed Kim's family members to the second floor of his house in Chongku-tong, Seoul, at gunpoint and carried away whatever property came to their hands.

"They never made a list of property they took away," he added.

This was an outright refutation of the remarks on Friday by former Lawmaker Yi Hak-pong, who was a senior investigator of the joint investigation headquarters in 1980, that the investigators, confiscating property of "illicit fortune makers," prepared a list of confiscated property on the scene and they signed it and had the people deprived of the property sign it, too.

Commenting on Yi's remarks that a team of five to six investigators visited Kim's house to confiscate his property, Kim's associate, who claimed he was on the scene, said a platoon of armed soldiers took away Kim in a Bongo van.

Yi said he has checked with the man who was in charge of confiscating Kim's property at the time and found Kim's claim was not true.

Russian Military Delegation Arrives 2 Jul

SK0307011693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] A four-member Russian military delegation arrived here yesterday to observe South Korean military education and training system, Defense Ministry officials said. The delegation, the first such from Moscow, is headed by Col. Gen. Shein Boris Petrovich, first vice president of the Russian Military General Staff College, they said. The Russian officers' visit has been made in line with a memorandum on military exchange signed by then Defense Minister Choe Se-chang and his Russian counterpart Pavel Grachev in Seoul Nov. 20, 1992.

The delegation is composed of Maj. Gens. Alegyerkiniy Yeveich Shirnop, Tarasenko Yuriy Ivanovich and Maj. Yegorp Konstantin Boric. They will make an observation tour of major military education and training institutions and facilities, including the National Defense College, Korea Military Academy and Special Warfare Command during their six-day stay.

Cambodia

Government Condemns Khmer Rouge Attack on Temple

BK0707142593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Jul 93

["Communique of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia" dated 7 July—read by announcer]

[Text] The Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC] would like to inform compatriots and the international public that between 70 and 100 troops from Unit 1001 of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK]/Khmer Rouge attacked the Cambodian National Army troops defending the Preah Vihear Temple, a place of national heritage in Choam Khsan District, Preah Vihear Province, on 7 July at 0400. After resisting the attack until 0845, our forces temporarily withdrew from the Preah Vihear temple with the aim of avoiding damage to our national cultural property.

This attack shows the eroding maneuver of the PDK/Khmer Rouge, who have always nurtured the ambition of seizing power through the force of weapons. As for the recent probing by the PDK/Khmer Rouge, claiming they are trying to find peace and national reconciliation, this was just a smokescreen to cover up the strategy to seize power through the force of weapons.

The PNGC firmly condemns the attack to control the Preah Vihear temple by the PDK/Khmer Rouge and categorically demands that this side immediately and unconditionally withdraw from the Preah Vihear temple.

Phnom Penh, 7 July

PDK Issues Communique on National Politics

BK0807044193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Jul 93

["Communique of the Spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea on Participation in the Settlement of the Issue of Peace and National Reconciliation in Cambodia and on the Party's Joining the New Cambodian Government"; place not given; dated 7 July—read by announcer]

[Text] I. The view, stance, and attitude of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] toward national reconciliation have repeatedly been shown and reaffirmed to the Cambodian nation and people and the world since the implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris Accord and particularly, since the results of the May 1993 elections organized by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] was announced. The PDK's political view, stance, and attitude toward the issue of Cambodia's peace and Cambodian national reconciliation have already been known and heard by everybody, including the prince head of state; Prince Norodom Ranariddh, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] leader; BLDP [Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party] Leader His Excellency Son Sann; Thailand, China, ASEAN states, and many other countries of the world. This issue is as clear as broad daylight.

II. However, a scanty handful of unscrupulous people who continue to invade and occupy Cambodia and who continue to betray and sell the nation to the Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] along with the group which is further tearing apart Cambodia in an attempt to devour it continue to remain the same as before. They never want to see peace, national reconciliation, independence, unity, sovereignty, and so on restored to Cambodia. They are openly conducting all manner of activities and maneuvers to destroy Cambodia's peace, national reconciliation, independence, unity, and sovereignty at all times in a well-oraganized, systematic, shameless manner. They have persistently acted in accordance with their strategy and interests.

These actions have clearly shown the ugly and stinking face of the people who are opposed to the will of the Cambodian nation and people, the national reconciliation plan of the prince head of state, and the national reconciliation program of FUNCINPEC and BLDP. Also they are against the sacred wish of the countries and people of the world who want to see Cambodia achieve national reconciliation, peace, independence, and sovereignty. These actions constitute a current running counter to the national reconciliation and peace process, the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people, democracy, rights and freedom, and human rights for which they have ceaselessly voiced support through their mouths and boneless tongues. The smell of their concrete actions, however, stinks more than the stench of the decayed corpses of animals.

III. Of late, national and international milieus have earnestly called for national reconciliation in Cambodia in order to allow the country to recover peace, independence, and sovereignty, thereby restoring peace and security to Cambodia and the region.

The prince head of state and father of national reconciliation on 6 July 1993 stated that the PDK's willingness to join in the search for Cambodia's national reconciliation and peace was the party's patriotic stance. The prince added that he welcomed the PDK's joining in the Cambodian national reconciliation and peace process.

Indonesian President Suharto on 6 July 1993 told the Japanese prime minister that the PDK should be allowed to take part in some segments of the new Cambodian Government. This was for the sake of Cambodia's national reconciliation and peace.

Thailand has repeated its statement that in order to restore peace and national reconciliation to Cambodia, the PDK should be allowed to participate in solving various issues of Cambodia. Thailand has used clear-cut words saying that national reconciliation and peace can only be achieved if the four parties are all in Cambodia. Those wanting to ostracize the PDK from the Cambodian national community are not realistic and do not want to see Cambodia achieve national reconciliation and peace.

IV. Concerning Cambodian national reconciliation, developments in the past years, in recent months, and in recent days have embodied the strong and earnest call by the Cambodian nation and people and the peace-and justice-loving countries and people the world over for the achievement of the Cambodian national reconciliation so as to allow Cambodia to regain genuine peace. Through the call, their opposition has also been clearly voiced against those destroying Cambodia's national reconciliation and peace.

V. With regard to the call by the nation, the people, and the world for national reconciliation and peace, the PDK wishes to make the following more emphatic reaffirmation:

A. The PDK and the Cambodian nation and people are the victims of the acts of aggression and occupation of Cambodia by the Yuon aggressors and their puppets for 14 years. As victims losing peace, independence, national unity, sovereignty, and national unification, the PDK and the Cambodian nation and people are yearning for peace and national independence and sovereignty. No one else wants national reconciliation, peace, and independence more than the entire Cambodian nation and people and the PDK.

B. The PDK accepts the statement by the prince head of state and father of national reconciliation and supports the prince's plan officially announced on 1 March 1993. The PDK has repeated its stance on and call for the implementation of the prince father's national reconciliation plan.

In respect to the suggestion by Indonesian President Suharto, who wants to have national reconciliation restored to Cambodia with the inclusion of the PDK in the new Cambodian government, it is identical to the proposal by Thailand and various countries in the world. The PDK wishes to express profound thanks to the political stance and attitude of the peace-and justice-loving governments and countries. Actually, our PDK does not want to retake power but it is pleased to sincerely take part in actively doing everything to serve Cambodia's national reconciliation and peace.

[Signed] PDK Spokesman

[Dated] 7 July

PDK Officials' Return to Phnom Penh Reported

BK0807051093 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] 1. A delegation of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] arrived in Phnom Penh on 1 July 1993. The PDK delegation comprised of Mr. Chan Youran, ambassador to Beijing of the PRC and senior founding member of the committee setting up the Cambodian National Union Party [CNUP]; Mr. Mak Ben, a former ambassador and member of the committee setting up the CNUP, and some of their aides.

In Phnom Penh, Mr. Chan Youran and his aides met and held cordial talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, and his consort. Later, the PDK delegation held separate talks with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, cochairman of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia; His Excellency Son Sann, chairman of the Constituent Assembly, and his assistants; Messrs. Akashi and Sanderson; ambassadors from various countries, and a number of officials in Phnom Penh.

While in the capital city, Mr. Chan Youran and his aides also went to visit the PDK office that the prince head of state has offered to the PDK.

2. Five PDK officials arrived at the PDK office in Phnom Penh on 3 and 4 July 1993 to clean up the office in order to allow the PDK to continue its work in Phnom Penh.

3. Another PDK delegation comprised of Mr. In Sopheap, former ambassador to Cairo of Egypt and member of the committee setting up the CNUP, and Mr. Kor Bunheng, former national adviser to the United Nations in New York and member of the committee setting the CNUP, already arrived at the PDK office in Phnom Penh on 5 June 1993.

Opinions at home and abroad, especially various milieus in Phnom Penh, have happily welcomed the return to Phnom Penh of the PDK officials to continue their activities at the PDK office.

National Assembly Approves Economic Reforms

BK0407105393 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 2 Jul 93 p 3

[By Harish Metha in Phnom Penh]

[Text] A MAJOR reform package of fiscal, industrial, investment, infrastructural and foreign policy initiatives of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia (PNG) won the approval of the newly-elected National Assembly yesterday.

The measures are aimed at steering the country out of its economic doldrums during a transitional period.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the co-chairman of the PNG, told reporters: "The new policy was given approval by a very, very great majority in the assembly... and it is a good start to the new liberal-democracy in Cambodia."

The PNG, formed last month, will be replaced by a new national government which will be set up after three months, and will turther refine the basic policy.

The government said it will implement an economic stabilisation programme to curb inflation, currently running at about 100 per cent, and maintain prices of goods and the value of the national currency, which currently trades at 2,600 riels to one US dollar.

The PNG pledged to reform the banking system and raise efficiency in tax collection. It will continue implementing agreements concluded with the Asian Development Bank to rehabilitate the energy, agriculture, communications and education sectors.

It also committed itself to improving the efficiency of state- owned and private industrial units, and to woo foreign investors.

It said it would launch an appeal to foreign countries and foreign firms to provide assistance in restoring electricity supply in cities facing blackouts due to power outages.

The PNG said it will continue with the exploration of offshore and onshore oil and mines—a move that was welcomed by foreign petroleum firms in Cambodia.

It also pledged to increase the capacity of harbours in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville, the two main trade lifelines. It plans to invite the private sector to fix the backward telecommunications infrastructure, and repair and restore roads.

The PNG has plans to promote foreign trade and crack down on tax evasion and smuggling. Timber exports will be regulated in line with current regulations which ban the export of logs, while permitting exports of sawn timber.

It committed itself to creating more jobs, and writing an improved labour law.

The PNG appealed to the Cambodian armed factions to protect all state assets, moveable and immovable, and to refrain from any speculative acts by selling off any property.

The PNG's foreign policy, based on neutrality and nonalignment, supports the proposed transformation of Southeast Asia into a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality.

It has also said it is committed to rooting out corruption, and setting up a genuinely independent judicial system.

Ranariddh, Hun Sen Issue Decree on Armed Forces

BK0607122893 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 6 Jul 93 (

["Subdecree" on the name of Cambodia's Armed Forces; signed by Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, cochairmen of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia; dated 3 July—read by announcer]

[Text] The Provisional National Government of Cambodia, with reference to the lofty view and order of Samdech Preah Uppayuveareach Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and supreme commander of the Cambodian national army, decide:

Article 1: The name of the three types of the Cambodian armed forces are as follow:

1. Cambodian National Armed Forces; Kangtoap Cheat Kampuchea, in Cambodian; and Forces Armee Nationale du Cambodge, in French.
2. Cambodian National Navy; Kang Neaveachar Cheat Kampuchea, in Cambodian; and Marine Nationale du Cambodge, in French.
3. Cambodian National Air Force; Kang Akasachar Cheat Kampuchea in Cambodian; and Aviation Nationale du Cambodge, in French.

Article 2: Ministers of the Cabinet Office and coministers of national defense, are charged with the implementation of the subdecree, starting from the date it is signed.

[Date] Phnom Penh, 5 July
[Signed] Cochairmen of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia,
Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh
Hun Sen

Hun Sen, Ranariddh Power Balance Examined

BK0707042493 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 6 Jul 93 p 6

[Article based on interview with Provisional Government Co-Chairman Hun Sen by Harish Metha in Phnom Penh entitled: "The Start of a New Era"; date not given]

[Text] SINGAPORE—Hun Sen has not lost his charisma or his political clout even though his Cambodian People's Party (CPP) finished second in the May elections to the National Assembly. People across the country respect him as a man they can trust, which is something they cannot say of most Cambodian politicians who are notorious for bending with the wind.

Together with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Mr Hun Sen now serves as co-president of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia (PNGC). The PNGC is expected to run the country till a new government is installed by end-August. Last month, both men were also appointed five-star generals by head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk, but the positions indicate political seniority rather than real military power.

Cambodian politics is a strange brew: the winner of the election, Prince Ranariddh, a son of Prince Sihanouk, was unable to stake a claim to form a new government because of two major political stumbling blocks: the CPP and Prince Sihanouk.

The 71-year-old Prince Sihanouk is now trying to manoeuvre himself into a position of absolute power. He has changed the name of the country from the State of Cambodia to Cambodia, and has reinforced his presence by replacing the national flag with the pre-1970 flag which fluttered over his palace in the days before he was ousted in a coup in that year.

Neither Prince Sihanouk nor the CPP wants Prince Ranariddh's Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party to gain complete control of all ministries. Hence, they have hammered out an interim power-sharing agreement. The result is the PNGC which was formed last month.

Given the need for national reconciliation, however, the temporary arrangements are likely to become permanent. Prince Ranariddh is not crying foul just yet, but he may object if his attempts to form a government are scuttled.

But for the moment Mr Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh are putting on a happy public face, and saying that they are getting along famously. They were seen smiling at each other last week, shaking hands and posing for press photographers outside the old Khmer-style National Assembly building.

After the new government was sworn in at the royal palace last week, Mr Hun Sen, the former prime minister of the State of Cambodia, told this correspondent: "The CPP and Funcinpec have joined hands, and are working together. It is a very good relationship now."

Prince Ranariddh also commented that his political partnership with former enemy Mr Hun Sen had clicked. After an assembly session last Tuesday, Prince Ranariddh said: "This morning, Hun Sen and I together answered very serious, even strong, questions from members of the assembly."

It is still early days, and chances are that their relationship will turn sour when it comes to forming a new government. It is unlikely that a country can run effectively with two prime ministers.

Prince Ranariddh, as head of the winning party, is likely to ask Mr Hun Sen to step aside, a demand that is sure to be resisted by the CPP which wants an equal role in government under the leadership of Prince Sihanouk. For now, both leaders realise the need to place the nation's interests before their narrow political ambitions, and start rebuilding an economy savaged by years of neglect and civil war.

Asked whether the PNGC will continue with the existing economic laws, Mr Hun Sen said: "Our existing laws on direct foreign investment, banking, etc, will all continue. There will be no changes to the basic laws, but perhaps some of the laws will be refined."

The Cambodian National Committee for Foreign Investments still remains the body that approves investment applications. But sources said that some refinements to the law can be expected because Prince Ranariddh's party is keen to show who is the boss.

The CPP controls 11 ministries, Funcinpec 10, the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party three and the Molinaka party one. Two ministries, defence and interior, are shared by Funcinpec and the CPP.

Asked why Funcinpec had one fewer ministry than Mr Hun Sen's CPP, Prince Ranariddh said: "We should be splitting them 12 and 12 between us, but we made the concession to accommodate the Molinaka party, which has been given one ministry. We did this for the sake of peace."

Prince Ranariddh's party is in charge of the key economic ministries. The finance and industry ministers are both Funcinpec men: Sam Rainsy and Pou Sothyrak. But CPP ministers Chea Chanto and Va Huot control the vital Planning and Commerce ministries respectively. Besides, the all-important Agriculture Ministry is headed by another CPP stalwart, Kong Sam Ol.

Mr Hun Sen's policies of liberalisation has netted at least US$600 million (S$972 million [Singapore dollars]) in foreign investments mainly in hotels, restaurants, banking, and light manufacturing. Besides, a major success of his policy has been the fact that about a dozen foreign petroleum exploration firms are searching for oil in offshore and onshore Cambodia.

During the election campaign, Prince Ranariddh lashed out at Mr Hun Sen's economic liberalisation, labelling it a "crude" attempt to reform the economy. All that appears to have been political posturing. Now both men are working together to sort out the country's economic woes.

The PNGC appears to have the right economic stuff, judging from its plan of action for the next three months. The basic policy planks of this document indicate that the new government has borrowed heavily from past State of Cambodia policies.

For instance, the document states that the government will implement the economic stabilisation programme to curb inflation and maintain the national currency, now at 2,600 riels to the US dollar, compared to about 4,000 riels early this year.

Inflation, nevertheless, rages at over 100 per cent, which has not affected the urban rich, but has ravaged the rural poor. Unless the government is able to quickly increase wages to match the high prices of essential food items, widespread rural riots could result.

Towards this end, the government is working on a plan to receive and absorb foreign aid, directing it towards the target areas. It has articulated a major plan to reconstruct the communications infrastructure repair roads and increase the capacity of the country's two major ports at Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville, about 180 km south of the capital.

Prince Sihanouk last week urged Singapore and Hongkong businessmen to invest in the development of Sihanoukville into a duty-free haven.

Mr Hun Sen, in the mid-80s, had launched a major bid to invite investments into Sihanoukville, and a few Singapore firms have already made investments there.

Prince Ranariddh and Mr Hun Sen do not see eye to eye on the status of land and property. When the genocidal Khmer Rouge forced people to leave their homes in the mid-1970s and work in the farms, many of the original owners died and thousands of houses were occupied by squatters.

The squatters were government officials and common folk and they have come to own the houses because the original owners have either died or have not come forward to claim them.

The situation is quite chaotic. After the election, for example, Funcinpec partymen grabbed a school in Kandal province, believing they could stake a claim to it simply because their party had won the election and could call the shots. In other provinces, they tried to occupy land, and were driven off by CPP members.

Prince Ranariddh has called for property and land to be returned to their former owners, but Mr Hun Sen favours a status quo in the interest of national harmony. "There will be nationwide riots if people were asked to return their homes to the original owners," said a CPP official. "Anyway, nobody has the records, which were all destroyed by the Khmer Rouge."

The country's immediate needs are dire. Its people need medical care, its children schools, its young men jobs that pay fair wages, and its industry foreign capital. But most objectives remain unattainable because the Khmer Rouge, who killed over a million Cambodians in the mid-1970s, still pose a threat.

The presence of the guerrillas, who continue blowing up bridges and national highways, has turned off foreign investors. Yet, Prince Sihanouk and Prince Ranariddh are talking about bringing them into the national mainstream. Mr Hun Sen is not too happy about it, and neither is the US which has warned that it will deny economic aid to Cambodia if the guerrillas were included in a future government.

Asked if he supports the plan to bring the Khmer Rouge into a proposed national Cambodian Armed Forces, consisting of all the Cambodian factions, Mr Hun Sen said: "We have not yet decided whether to bring the Khmer Rouge into the CAF [Cambodian Armed Forces] because they are continuing killing people. They killed people in the past, and they are still doing it."

Sihanouk Names 9 Nov as National Day

BK0607115893 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio in Cambodian 1100 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Decree signed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk dated 3 July—read by announcer]

[Text] We, Samdech Preah Uppayuveareach Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state:

With reference to the request made by His Royal Highness Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency Hun Sen, cochairmen of the provisional national government of Cambodia, and with the full agreement of Cambodia's Constituent Assembly, order that November 9 of each year be Cambodia's national day.

We ought to recall that Cambodia received full independence on 9 November 1953.

Phnom Penh, 3 July
[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Sihanouk Affirms Constitutional Assembly

BK0807080793 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, at a meeting with the Constitution Drafting Commission at the Royal Palace's Chan Hall on the afternoon of 5 July—recorded]

[Text] I would like to pay my respects to His Excellency [H.E.] Samdech Son Sann, H.E. Vice Chairman Chea Sim, H.E. Vice Chairman Ing Kiet, and all excellencies and madames, my prominent and noble colleagues in national reconstruction and defense. I also would like to pay my respects to the revered Samdech Supreme Patriarchs, venerable Samdech Patriarch Mongkoltepeacha, venerable Samdech Patrairch Khousananda, and all Buddhist monks. My respects also go to all my beloved brothers, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, respected nuns, and elders. At this moment, I have the great honor to chair a special meeting of the eminent representatives of our parliament—that is, our Constituent Assembly—and our Provisional National Government of Cambodia. The special representatives, such as H.E. Samdech Son Sann, chairman of the Constituent Assembly, have asked me to chair this special meeting in the Royal Palace in order to jointly examine the major principles to be set for the national constitution, to exchange views concerning our mandate in drafting the major law of our motherland, that is, the Constitution of Cambodia, which to all of us is a historic undertaking.

I would like to inform you that the Constituent Assembly—with members coming from among the people, who are the masters of the voting, the land, the water, the destiny, and the future of our country—is empowered and has the responsibility and honor to draft the nation's constitution. After this constitution is drafted, it will be submitted for promulgation by the head of state before the nation, the people, and the state can use it. It is not the head of state—not the government, not any association—who has the authority to draft the constitution. It is the duty, the right, the obligation of the people's representatives.

After promulgation of the constitution, the Constituent Assembly will become the National Assembly abiding by the constitution, and all of us in Cambodia, both Cambodians and alien residents, will abide by this major law and other laws made in accordance with this constitution to be applied to all sectors.

Presently, please note that several private organizations and associations have, one after another, written to me, your Prince Father, asking that I include them in the Constituent Assembly so they can supervise the work of this assembly and also advise, enlighten, and debate points in the making of the constitution. I would like to inform you, venerable ones and all compatriots, that first the Constituent Assembly has come out of the people who are the masters of the land, water, and votes, including both soldiers and civilians, clergymen and laymen. It is the people of Cambodia who have elected the Constituent Assembly. Soon the Constituent Assembly will become the National Assembly working for a term of five years to represent all of our 8-9 million people. Legally speaking, only the Constituent Assembly has the power to draft the constitution. No associations outside the assembly have any power to make it.

In a pluralistic liberal democracy there are many political parties. Some parties win votes while others fail. Nonetheless, the state must recognize that these parties are legal if they have already been officially approved by the head of state. We thus have more than 20 political parties. To allow a few of these parties, at their request, to be included in the Constituent Assembly and get involved in the drafting of the constitution is surely illegal. It is illegal because the people have already chosen their representatives to make this constitution. For them to demand such a privilege is contrary to the will of the people.

Second, within the framework of liberal democracy there are many associations working for human rights and democracy. There are also similar movements, some of which even count clergymen among their members while others have foreigners as their members. So, if one after another of these associations keep asking for the right to be included in the Constituent Assembly and to get involved in the drafting of the constitution there certainly will be total anarchy and it will be against the will of our people.

In brief, let us ask ourselves whether we consider the recent election valid or invalid? If we consider it valid, then we must hand the duty of drafting this constitution and making other laws over to the Constituent Assembly, that is, to the parliament. Let us refrain from interfering in the parliament's internal affairs. However, if the Constituent Assembly, if the parliament allows them to be included, then I will not raise any objections. I will absolutely not make any objections because the Father of the Nation, the Father of Democracy must concur with the decisions of the people's representatives. Their decisions are final.

If you decide that they can only observe and hear the debates and should not interfere in the drafting process, then that wish should be respected. If you say that their advice and counsel should be made through the press or any other external media, that they should not interfere because it might complicate your task, then so be it. All I your Prince Father can do is pass their written demands, petitions, and letters on to the Constituent Assembly. It is all up to the Constituent Assembly to decide. Please understand that this is a complex issue.

Although the people have already voted, if 1 or 2 million of them demand to be included in the constitution drafting process, then an impasse will be inevitable. Now a few political parties, a few associations have already demanded such a special privilege. If we were to set a precedent by granting them that privilege, others might also demand the same thing. So, the 15 to 16 parties and a dozen associations have submitted their demand. And overseas Cambodians have begun sending letters asking the same favor of me. Therefore, in the next few weeks we will find ourselves in a total impasse and no one will be able to work at all.

Today's meeting is not being held for Prince Sihanouk to interfere in the constitution-drafting process of the parliament. Allow me to make the following clarification: Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, your excellencies and madames in the government, and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] have the duty and obligation merely to provide some ideas and advice to and to exchange views with the Constituent Assembly to help facilitate its job. For example, today at this meeting Samdech Son Sann, chairman of the Constituent Assembly, that is, chairman of the parliament, has asked me to chair this meeting. Therefore, we should exchange opinions, make discussions, and find out right and wrong so we can successfully make the constitution for the nation and make it the highest law, the best law for our country in accordance with the sacred desire and aspiration of our people, our clergy, and our compatriots both at home and abroad.

Some Cambodians living abroad wrote to me: Prince, do not forget about multipartite liberal democracy, respect for human rights, the free-market economy, and so on.

I, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, have looked closely at these topics and have prepared them most thoroughly, without missing any one of them. If those overseas Cambodians are kind enough as to examine the documents, they will see that everything has been made available, that no gap can be detected, and that nothing is missing. Therefore, I beg of them to have greater understanding. Understanding of what? They should especially have a better understanding of the duty of each organization.

If being an association or a movement gives you the right to consider yourselves an equal of the parliament, of the government, or of the head of state, then there can only be chaos. Therefore, being an association you should consider yourselves an association. Do not consider yourselves the parliament. If you are not the head of state, do not mistake yourselves for a head of state. Consider yourselves something else, such as head of this or that party. This does not mean that I am jealous of my power. But in other countries, such as France or Canada or the United States, do the associations there exceed the limits of their rights? Certainly not. They stay within the limits of their citizens' rights.

Ours is a civilized country, like others. We have a time-honored culture. We should have great understanding and behave like others. I believe we can do it. You, venerable monks and brothers, certainly can do it. I do not ask you to behave differently from others. What I ask you to do is behave like others. Although we are Cambodians, we should not behave so differently from others. If we do so, then we will never be able to function at all. Therefore, we should allow our representatives to work and successfully draft the constitution. Thank you.

Delegates Functions During Absence

BK0807054493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Jul 93

["6 July Decree of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council"—read by announcer]

[Text] Royal decree:

Article 1. During the prince's absence from mid-July to mid-August 1993, the function of the acting head of state and acting chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] will be delegated to His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, chairman of the Constituent Assembly.

Article 2. During H.E. Son Sann's absence, the function of acting head of state will be fulfilled by Mr. Chea Sim while the function of the SNC chairman will be delegated to Prince Norodom Ranariddh, cochairman of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia and SNC member.

Article 3. During the absence of both H.E. Son Sann and Mr. Chea Sim, Mr. Ing Kiet will assume the function.

[Dated] 6 July
[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Program Issues 'Correction' to Sihanouk Decree

BK0807073593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 7 Jul 93

["Correction of the National Armed Forces Program"]

[Text] To: Samdech Preah Uppayuveareach Norodom Sihanouk, august head of state of Cambodia and supreme commander of the Cambodian National Armed Forces [CNAF]; Prince Kromluong; and his excellency the cochairman of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC].

In the National Armed Forces program on 5 July 1993, we did not fully and correctly broadcast the 3 July royal decree appointing the chief and deputy chiefs of the General Staff of the CNAF. We would like to apologize to the August prince, Prince Kromluong, and his excellency for the mistake.

August prince, Prince Kromluong, and his excellency the cochairman, please accept our devoted loyalty.

The following is the officially correct royal decree appointing the chief and deputy chiefs of the General Staff of the CNAF:

Decree:

We, Samdech Preah Uppayuveareach Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and Supreme Commander of the CNAF:

With reference to the 5 July 1993 request made by the cochairmen of the PNGC for the appointment of the chief and deputy chiefs of the CNAF, order:

Article 1. The appointment of His Excellency [H.E.] General Ke Kimyan as chief of the General Staff of the CNAF.

Article 2. The appointment of H.E. Gen. Nhoek Bunthai as first deputy chief of the General Staff of the CNAF.

Article 3. The appointment of H.E. Gen. Pol Saroeun, H.E. Gen. Pan Thai, H.E. Gen. Meas Sophea, H.E. Gen. Khan Savoeun, H.E. Lieutenant General Men Bunthan, and H.E. Lt. Gen. Li Penghong as deputy chiefs of the General Staff of the CNAF.

Article 4. The cochairmen of the PNGC are entrusted with implementing this decree.

Article 5. This decree becomes effective the day it is signed.

Phnom Penh, 5 July

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk.

U.S. Envoy to UN Gives News Conference, Departs

BK0707150293 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 6 July, Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, returned home after a one-day visit to Cambodia.

Before departing, she gave a news conference at Pochentong Airport to inform local and foreign media on the results of the visit. Answering a question on the issue of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] Japanese personnel in Cambodia, she praised the highly responsible task of UNTAC Japanese personnel in Cambodia to contribute to restoring and rebuilding Cambodia. Concerning the Khmer Rouge issue, she stressed implementing the stance and view of the U.S. Government.

After the news conference, Mrs. Albright returned home and was seen off by Long Visalo and H.E. Charles Twining, along with his colleagues at the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia.

Indonesia

Suharto Discusses Summit, Meeting With Clinton

BK0707133893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] President Suharto said he hopes industrialized nations grouped under the G-7 will respond positively to developing countries' aspirations.

Speaking to newsmen during the flight from Tokyo to Jakarta today, President Suharto discussed the outcome of his talks with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in Tokyo. President Suharto met Miyazawa in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, NAM, and then later as leader of G-7.

Suharto said the NAM has two objectives: to prevent the outbreak of war between the East and West blocs that could lead to World War III; and to fight poverty, starvation, delayed economic development, and illiteracy. The second objective can only be achieved through development. Thus, preventing the outbreak of war and fighting poverty are interrelated. He said since the collapse of communism, the possibility of an East-West war does not exist; therefore, the objectives of the NAM have changed to economic development. However, NAM member countries are faced with the problem of debt burden that obstructs their effort to carry out development.

After explaining the problem of debt burden facing the developing countries, President Suharto said that the sale of products from developing countries in markets in the developed nations could help solve the debt burden problem.

President Suharto discussed his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, saying that Indonesia fully understands issues on human rights protection because Indonesia was colonized for 350 years. He stressed that in Indonesia the rights to assemble and to freedom of speech are guaranteed by the 1945 Constitution.

President Suharto and his entourage returned to Jakarta this afternoon at 1400 West Indonesian time [0700 GMT] after visiting Japan since 4 July.

Negative Side of Deregulation Package Outlined

BK0707152193 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 15 Jun 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Other Side of the Measures To Deregulate the Automotive Industry"]

[Text] There is some truth in Kwik Kian Gie's [local economic observer] statement made in Jakarta on Saturday (12/6/93) saying that the deregulation measures in the industrial sector announced by the government on 10 June 1993 will not be very effective in spurring economic efficiency and competitiveness. (PEMBARUAN 14/6/93) This is because the deregulation measures, which have been postponed several times, have left in a weak economic situation some groups of people who have been waiting for the new package to be announced.

Actually, the government has issued the economic deregulation measures for the automotive industry as a companion to the deregulation measures in the banking sector announced on 29 May 1993. It is only one of the deregulation measures planned for the industrial sector. However, it seems that the response by various groups of people shows they are in favor of deregulating the automotive industry. This is because these people expect the prices of Category I commercial vehicles, jeeps, and passenger cars to be reduced with the issuance of the deregulatory measures.

These people who expect the prices of such vehicles to be reduced must have postponed their purchases. However the prices of these three types of motor vehicles will never be reduced even though the deregulation measures for the automotive industry have been issued. This is because the luxury tax on the three types of motor vehicles has not been lowered along with the deregulation.

In view of this, the people who have been waiting for the deregulation packages to be announced must have lost hope of acquiring such motor vehicles. As a consequence, they have begun to lose interest and are no longer eager to buy those three types of vehicles. At this point, Kwik Kian Gie was right when he said that the deregulation measures announced by the government on 10 June 1993 are not attractive enough to effectively spur economic efficiency.

Perhaps it is not only these people who are in a weak economic position. Apparently, the sale of automobiles, including the three types of vehicles, have continued to decline over the last two to three years due to high prices. The producers of motor vehicles definitely hope that the prices of the three types of motor vehicles would be reduced following the announcement of the deregulation measures on the automotive industry so that the market situation could return to normalcy. However, since the prices will not be reduced, the producers of the three types of vehicles will become economically weak as well.

Therefore, the automotive industry deregulation is definitely not the best medicine for quickly curing the ailing market and bringing it back to normalcy. Even Industry Minister Tunky Ariwibowo has calculated that against the backdrop of the deregulation measures, it would take about five years to achieve a level of efficiency in automobile production that could allow price reductions.

On the other hand, it is also interesting to recall that the deregulation measures open the door for motor vehicle imports either in the form of built or completely knocked down vehicles. The import tariffs on imported built motor vehicles is very high—200 percent of the factory price for vehicles whose makes have been locally produced and 300 percent for those that have not been locally produced. This does not include the 35 percent value added tax and 10 percent luxury tax after the completely knocked down imported vehicles have been assembled.

No matter how huge the value added tax and the luxury tax are, these factors will not cause any problem for the people belonging to the higher income group or those working for the conglomerates. No matter how expensive the latest prices of imported cars are, they will still import or buy them. Their main interest is to maintain their status symbol when buying these luxury cars. Apart from that, perhaps, they think that the quality of imported cars is better than that of those produced locally.

Under such conditions, the acquisition of these imported cars by a certain group of people will create an economic imbalance and thus lead to social jealousy. On the other hand, it is felt that the import of expensive assembled luxury cars is not in line with efforts to show a sense of solidarity among the people and the government's policy to eradicate poverty. It looks like initial steps should be taken in anticipation of the appearance of a wider gap between the rich and the poor.

Threat of Factionalism Seen in Cambodia

BK0307145393 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Constitutional Assembly's approval of the newly-established coalition government of Cambodia last Thursday indicated that the Cambodian People's Party, or CPP, which had administered the country since 1979, finally and gracefully accepted the opposition's victory. The opposition was none other than FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] headed by Prince Ranariddh. However, it would be wise and important to view Cambodia's future through CPP's future moves in the new coalition government.

Numerous people were of the opinion that when the CPP reviewed the election results, its first motive was to strike a bargain for a greater role when the new coalition government was formed. But its scheme was thwarted because of the shock it received from the unexpected poor polling results. It was even worse for Hun Sen, who was embarrassed by the poor polling results he received from his own constituency, Kompong Thom. The CPP's defeat could possibly bring about a loss in important trade agreements embarked upon between Phnom Penh, Thai, and Malaysian officials and enterpreneurs prior to holding of the general election. As such, (?privately owned) lands, which had been earmarked for development in various provinces, are facing imminent danger.

Due to its weak position, it could be expected that the CPP would take advantage of its position in the coalition government. Definitely, Hun Sen was happy over the 120-member Constitutional Assembly's decision to uphold the existing laws—a legacy handed down by the Phnom Penh communist regime.

Speaking in front of the Constitutional Assembly members, Hun Sen stated that it was better to have old laws than none at all. But his happiness was overshadowed by the possibility of a rift brewing between his moderate party members and CPP Secretary General Chea Sim's radical supporters.

The possible factionalism would likely have a far-reaching influence over compromises made with FUNCINPEC. When a moderate faction is finally established, then Cambodia's future prospects will definitely look brighter.

Laos

Australia Signs Memorandum on Rice Research

BK0807102493 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Vientiane, July 8 (KPL)—The Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] and Australia agreed to cooperate in agricultural research in respect to rain-fed low land rice in drought-prone areas, says a release of the Australian Embassy here.

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have completed a memorandum of understanding on the cooperation called project 9045 plant improvement of rain-fed low land rice in drought-prone areas of Laos. This was signed on 8 July 1993 at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Vientiane.

Signatories to the memorandum of understanding were H.E. [His Excellency] Mr. Michael Mann, Australian ambassador to Lao PDR on behalf of ACIAR, and H.E. Mr. Sittaheng Latsaphon, vice-minister of agriculture and forestry.

The project is intended to provide appropriate information to assess the (?efficiency) of initiating a rice breeding program specifically designed to increase yields of rain-fed low land rice in drought-prone areas, and to identify appropriate areas over a period of three years.

Joint Provinces Meet on Murder, Border Issues

BK0807040493 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] In order to effectively implement a memorandum previously signed by the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao border peacekeeping coordination subcommittees, officials of Bokeo Province led by Khamsai Meuangvisai, deputy governor of the Laotian province, and officials of the Kingdom of Thailand's Chiang Rai Province led by (Thiraman), deputy governor of the Thai province, held a consultative meeting in Bokeo Province on 28 June.

The officials of the two provinces discussed the case of a Lao national killed by a Thai person at Don Manomongkhon on 6 May 1993. They agreed to further implement legal procedures in the case and against the murderer until the matter is ended.

After that, the Lao and Thai provincial officials unanimously agreed to continue to suppress all the disturbances and bad practices that may occur along the border, such as illegal trading, car theft, and other activities which will adversely affect the solidarity between Laos and Thailand. All this is aimed at making the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao border areas in the two provinces a real border of friendship and brotherliness.

Circular on Sales of Antiques Issued

BK0707102493 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Vientiane, Jul 7 (KPL)—The Ministry of Information and Culture issued on June 29 a circular to the entire country that sales of antiques of special cultural value are prohibited unless it is allowed by the ministry.

The same circular advised all provincial cultural services to carry out the work of overseeing antique handicraft dealers, adding that special attention should be paid to provinces bordering with other countries. Issuing this document, the ministry referred to Article 19 of the Constitution, Article 103 of the Criminal Code, and Article 32 of the Law on Properties.

The ministry observes that in the past some valuable cultural heritage was lost due to bad management on the part of the cultural services.

Leading Cadres in Saisettha Found Corrupt

BK0807064893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The party and state control committee of Vientiane Municipality has discovered secret evidence indicating the embezzlement of state funds for personal benefit. The total state and public money embezzled is 117 million kips. In Saisettha District alone, 13 leading cadres are found to be involved in embezzling more than 21.4 million kips for their own benefits.

On this matter, the Vientiane Municipality party and state control committee remarked that, in order to counter and suppress corruption practices—the practices that only adversely affect the society—there is need to actively control the qualification of the party committee and all its members, the implementation of the party's direction and policy, and the enforcement of state laws. There is also need to control the implementation of the principles of centralized democracy, solidarity, and work system and relations between party committee and mass organizations, as well as other issues.

In order to effectively suppress corruption, it is necessary for all services and agencies to seriously impose stringent control measures, in conformity with the state laws, against the offenders—those who embezzle the state money and property, which come from the sweat and energy of the people.

Philippines

Presidential Security Commander Resigns

HK0107143893 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Brigadier General Ismael Villareal has resigned as commander of the Presidential Security Group, saying he will return to the Armed Forces.

A Malacanang source said Villareal's resignation will take effect on 16 July 1993. The source added that the resignation was triggered by a misunderstanding with the chief presidential security aide Brigadier General Carlos Badega. Another Malacanang source claimed that the resignation was a result of an ongoing revamp at the palace.

Villareal will be replaced by Colonel Leo Alves from the special forces.

NDF Rejects Peace Package

HK0507051693 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] has rejected the comprehensive peace process that the National Unification Commission has submitted to President Fidel V. Ramos. The NDF has also threatened to pursue its struggle against the government. The president, however, said the government will form a new panel which will negotiate with communist rebels, Muslim rebels, as well as rebel soldiers.

MILF Denies Being Behind Violence in Mindanao

HK0207121793 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] The Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] today vehemently denied suggestions by police that it is behind recent violent incidents in Central Mindanao. Alhaj Murad, MILF chief of staff and vice chairman for military affairs, said the MILF leadership does not sanction unnecessary military actions.

Earlier, police regional commander Chief Superintendent Saturnino Medina said the MILF may have been behind the massacre of civilians in Barangay Pandan, Matalam, Cotabato, last week and the murder of several rattan cutters in Alamada, Cotabato.

Murad also denied that MILF has Commander Cobra and Commander Wahid in its membership rolls. The two commanders were identified by Medina as the primary suspects in both incidents.

[Begin Murad recording] As we have said earlier, our position now is we are observing the peace process and we have told our field commanders to maintain only a defensive posture. In our list of commanders, we have no Commander Wahid and Commander Cobra. You know very well that some people just attach the term commander to their names. [end recording]

Murad also rejected suggestions that MILF was causing violence to attract attention to itself now that the government has begun peace talks with the Moro National Liberation Front, because initial talks have begun between the MILF and the National Unification Commission. He said the MILF is maintaining its defensive stand while the government's peace process is going on.

Government Agrees to Peace Talks With MNLF

HK0707114093 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 7 Jul 93

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The substantive portions of the formal peace negotiations between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] will be held in Indonesia, although the signing of the agreement will be held in Manila. This was announced by Justice Secretary and National Unification Commission member Franklin Drilon.

[Begin Drilon recording in English] We have agreed already that Indonesia would be the site of the substantial talks, and that the signing and the final stages of the talks would be in the country, in Manila. [end recording]

The issue of the talks' venue was resolved after quite a time. The government had insisted that the talks be held in the country, but MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari wanted to the peace talks held in Jakarta. Although an agreement has finally been reached on the shifting venue policy, there is no certainty that the talks really will begin late July. It was said that this date should not be considered a deadline.

Chief of Staff Reorganizes Armed Forces Positions

HK0807040893 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 8 Jul 93 p 12

[Text] Top positions in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have been revamped because of the scheduled retirement of senior military officers this month, military authorities said yesterday. Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia, AFP chief of staff, named Brig. Gen. Romeo Padiernos, chief of the AFP Civil Relations Service (CRS), as new AFP deputy chief of staff for civil military operations (CMO) (J-7) starting July 16. He will replace Brig. Gen. Emiliano Templo, who retires this month.

Padiernos, on the other hand, will be replaced by Brig. Gen. Rene Dado, commander of the Army 702nd Infantry Brigade in Mountain Province. The designation of Padiernos as the new AFP-CMO chief is based on AFP General Orders 577 signed by Abadia last June 30.

However, the position of the AFP vice chief of staff, the second highest position in the military organization, remains vacant with the retirement of Lt. Gen. Guillermo Flores last month. Among the most senior contenders for the post are Vice Adm. Mariano Dumancas, Philippine navy chief; Lt. Gen. Arturo T. Enrile, Philippine Army chief, and Lt. Gen. Alfredo Filler, AFP deputy chief of staff.

Military authorities said, starting July 14, Col. Leo Alvez, commander of the Army Special Forces Regiment, will be the new chief of the Presidential Security Group (PSG). Brig. Gen. Miguel Villareal, PSG chief, has been named new AFP deputy chief of staff for planning (J-5). Brig. Gen. Victor Mayo, commander of the AFP Headquarters Service Command at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, will be the new chief of the Army Special Forces.

Thailand

Chatchai Attends PRC Development Meeting

BK0707134193 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 7 Jul 93 p 13

[Text] The proposed quadrangle development plan covering China, Burma, Laos, and Thailand won the support of prominent business leaders from various East Asian countries during an international symposium held in Beijing last weekend. The forum, entitled "Prospects for East Asian Cooperation and Development in the Next Ten Years," was organized by China's Society for Strategy and Management Research.

General Chatchai Chunhawan, former prime minister; Bangkok Bank Chairman Chatri Sophonphanit; and Kamphon Wacharaphon, THAI RAT newspaper owner, were among the Thai delegates at the forum. General Chatchai was also granted a 25-minute meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

During the three-day forum, Mr. Chatri and General Chatchai proposed the idea of cooperation among the four countries in the targeted joint development area of southern China, northern Burma, Laos, and northern Thailand.

Mr. Chatri said that an official joint declaration by the heads of the four countries confirming their wish to form the quadrangle is needed as the first step, followed by the construction of basic infrastructure linking the four states, especially road and rail networks, and an agreement to relax rules to enable free movement of people and goods in the development area.

Firm Said Shopping for Russian Arms for Military

BK0407104393 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 2 Jul 93 p 6

[Text] A new Thai firm was in Moscow last week to develop Russian military sales to the Thai armed forces.

Russthai Pte Ltd managing director Kroeksak Sakbodin told BT that he is preparing for demonstrations and talks on military sales for a Thai armed forces visit to Russia probably in August or September.

"We have indicated several items of interest, but we are not in a position to decide. That will be up to the armed forces," Mr Sakbodin said.

His company hosted a visit to Bangkok in May by officials from the Russian State Committee of Defence Branches of Industry. Russthai, whose officials include a number of Thais well-known in the military sales sector, has been appointed the Bangkok agent for the promotion of Russian military exports to Thailand.

Mr Sakbodin was in Moscow from June 21 to 24, and met the deputy chairman of the State Committee, Gennadiy Janpolskiy.

Weapons systems that are likely to be considered when the Thai armed forces delegation visits Russia include air defence missiles, other missiles, T-72 tanks, and army rifles. "We have not considered naval systems yet," Mr Sakbodin said.

The possibility of a Russian offer of specially-equipped and priced MiG-29 air defence fighters was discussed early this year when the Thai ambassador to Russia, Kasit Phirom, visited one of the MiG-29 production facilities in Nizhni Novgorod. He received detailed briefings on the aircraft's performance in simulated tests against the US-built F-16 currently operated by the Thai Air Force.

The chief designer of the MiG-29, Anatoliy Belosvet, has told BT that F-16 engines perform less well in tropical conditions. He claims that the US aircraft is less manoeuvrable in combat, with a poorer safety record than the MiG-29.

The German Air Force is now operating the F-16 and the MiG-29 in tandem, having taken over the Russian-built aircraft from the former East German air force.

Malaysia has evaluated the aircraft against US, British and French competitors. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed favoured buying the MiG-29 last December despite intensive lobbying by US interests and political infighting in

Austria To Establish Consulate in Phuket

BK0707135493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Austria will set up an office of the honorary consul in the southern Province of Phuket. The proposal was approved by the cabinet yesterday as prosposed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The consulate will cover 12 provinces, namely Phuket, Surat Thani, Phangnga, Krabi, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Trang, Phatthalung, Songkhla, Satun, Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat. It will enable Austria to better look after Austrian tourists visiting Thailand. The consulate will also contribute to the promotion of political, trade, and tourism relations between the two countries. The cabinet also approved the appointment of Mr. Chuchai Hongyok as honorary consul general to Phuket Province.

Police Official Charged With Saudi Jewelry Theft

BK0807021493 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jul 93 pp 1,3

[Text] Former Central Investigation Bureau deputy commissioner Pol Lt Gen [Police Lieutenant General] Chalo Koetthet and seven others were formally charged in the courts yesterday with misappropriating tens of millions of baht worth of jewellery stolen from a Saudi palace.

The eight defendants were also charged with extortion and accepting bribes in exchange for dropping charges against certain suspects.

The prosecutor's charges revealed, for the first time, the extent of the alleged abuse of authority and greed of the police team, headed by Pol Lt Gen Chalo, assigned to handle the Saudi jewellery case.

The other defendants are Pol Col [Police Colonel] Prasoet Chanthraphiphat, superintendent of the Mounted Police; Pol Maj [Police Major] Thani Sidokbuap, inspector of policy and planning at Kalasin provincial police; Pol Capt [Police Captain] Ritthisat Kaeodet, deputy inspector of Ban Tak district police, Senior Pol Sgt Maj [Police Sergeant Major] Theng Thipphalawong and Pol Sgt Maj Sanit Kawitcha, unit commanders of Thoen district police in Lampang; Pol Sgt Maj Sawek Kanthama, unit commander of Section 5 of the Crime Suppression Division; and Suchit Chaisiri who was described as close to Pol Lt Gen Chalo.

Pol Lt Gen Chalo, then the CIB deputy commissioner, was assigned by the Police Department to head the investigation team in the search for Kriangkrai Techamong, a Thai worker at King Faisal's palace in Jeddah who stole about 500 million baht worth of jewellery from the palace and returned with it to Thailand.

On March 30,1989, the Saudi Government asked the Thai Government via diplomatic channels to locate Kriangkrai and recover the jewellery and return it to Saudi Arabia.

The public prosecutor in charge of the case, Prasoet Nantayu, told the court yesterday police regulations laid down by the Interior Ministry in 1955 require police officers to make a list of items seized from a suspect or his associates together with their signatures.

The officers are also required to examine the seized items to ensure they match the list and record the seizure in the police log book.

The public prosecutor said that on December 30, 1989, Pol Lt Gen Chalo, Pol Col Prasoet, Pol Maj Thani, Pol Capt Ritthisat and others were taken by Athiwat Kwangsi to the home of Wong Techa in Tambon Mae Wa in Lamphang's Thoen District to collect two bags of stolen jewellery which Mr Athiwat had bought from Kriangkrai.

He claimed the recovered jewellery was not listed and recorded formally in the log book at Thoen district police station.

Mr Athiwat was not allowed to sign the list of jewellery taken from him and, instead of the police station, the valuables were kept at the home of Pol Lt Gen Chalo.

The prosecutor claimed that on the same day Pol Lt Gen Chalo misappropriated a custom-made Chopard watch made of white gold stolen from King Faisal's palace. The watch was surrendered to the ex-CIB commissioner by Manat Yangphaibun in Tambon Lom Raet, Thoen District.

The public prosecutor also charged that on January 2, 1990, two small bags of stolen jewellery were returned to police officers in Tambon Nai Wiang in Phrae's Muang District by Surasak Aneksirikun who allegedly admitted he bought the items from Kriangkrai.

The recovered items were not properly listed and recorded in the police log book and were kept with Pol Lt Gen Chalo.

Six more items of jewellery, including three diamond necklaces, a diamond studded watch, a pair of diamond earrings and a diamond locket the size of an old one-baht coin were seized the following day in Tambon Nai Wiang from Mr Surasak. None of these was accounted for, the prosecutor charged. The court was also told that in January 1990, Pol Lt Gen Chalo and Pol Maj Thani seized and misappropriated 12 jewellery Items allegedly bought by Mr Surasak but kept by Sophon Phiyarat in Bangkok and in Uttradit's Muang District.

The items included a women's diamond-studded gold watch, a Pateh Phillipe women's diamond-studded gold watch, a diamond and gold necklace, a diamond-studded gold bracelet, 200 diamonds weighing about 75 carats, two plastic bags of pearls and two leather strapped watches.

On January 11, a Chopard women's diamond-studded gold watch and a Bueche Giaod women's gold watch studded with 18 carats in diamonds were surrendered to Pol Lt Gen Chalor by Mrs Chinkaeo Sinuan in Thoen District. The two items were pocketed by Pol Lt Gen Chalo, the prosecutor told the court.

He also charged that Pol Lt Gen Chalo and Pol Maj Thani demanded and received three million baht from Mr Surasak in return for dropping the charges against him of receiving stolen goods. Pol Maj Thani was also charged with extorting another 500,000 baht from Mr Surasak.

Another 660,000 baht in cash given by Thanong Techamong, Kriangkrai's brother, to Pol Col Prasoet in Chiang Mai was also embezzled by the officer the prosecutor claimed.

He told the court that Pol Lt Gen Chalo and another officer, Pol Sgt Maj Sawek Kanthama, had successfully extorted one million baht and 200,000 baht respectively from Nikhom Techamong in return for dropping charges against him.

Mr Nikhom allegedly kept stolen jewellery and cash on behalf of Kriangkrai.

The court was told that from January 10 to April 30,1990, nine items of stolen jewellery were seized in Tambon Mae Pa, Thoen District from Ms Sumana and Mrs Pao Tobut by Pol Capt Ritthisat. The jewellery was allegedly eventually embezzled by the officer.

The police captain was also charged with extorting 30,000 baht from Mr Nikhom, allegedly as a fee for helping Kriangkrai escape police arrest.

The 8th defendant, Suchit Chaisiri, who was alleged to be close to Pol Lt Gen Chalo, was charged with extorting and receiving 150,000 baht from Mr Athiwat and Charun Chankong while they were held in custody at Pol Lt Gen Chalo's home in Tak Province.

The prosecutor charged that Mr Suchit threatened to kill both of them if they did not give him the money.

Mr Suchit also made the same threat against Mr Surasak and Mr Nikhom and successfully extracted 500,000 baht and 100,000 baht from them respectively.

The public prosecutor accused Pol Snr Sgt Maj Theng Thippalawong and Pol Sgt Maj Sanit Kawicha of having received 200,000 baht from Mr Nikhom after they deliberately defied their superiors' orders to stop Mr Nikhom and another member of the Techamong family from withdrawing money from the Bangkok Bank branch in Thoen District on December 6, 1989.

All eight defendants denied the charges and were released on bail of 300,000 baht each.

Wimon Denies Involvement in Khmer Temple Seizure

BK0807081093 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Commenting on the seizure of Preah Vihear ancient temple by Khmer Rouge yesterday and the reported Thai support for the Khmer Rouge during this operation, Army Commander General Wimon said the accusation was groundless, noting that Thailand is friendly to all Cambodian factions and wants to see permanent peace in Cambodia. He pointed out that the seizure of the temple by the Khmer Rouge has affected Thailand's tourist earnings. He said:

[Begin Wimon recording] The Army, or the Thai Government, always treats the four Cambodian factions impartially. No special contacts have been established with any particular faction. This is always my answer. It is obviously clear. The incident took place at about 0400 yesterday. Some 100 men attacked the temple. Our unit in the vicinity reported to me that an unidentified group of armed men attack the temple. I ordered a quick examination of the situation. Another report I received later confirmed that it was the Khmer Rouge who attacked the temple. The defenders reported to their unit that they believed that the Khmer Rouge was supported by the Thai side. I think they merely wanted to find an excuse or a condition to justify their withdrawal from the temple. However, such an accusation has greatly damaged our reputation. The world might believe that we support the Khmer Rouge. I want to reaffirm here that we have no need to support the Khmer Rouge. Preah Vihear Temple has been opened for tourists since 1 July. It is a source of income for Sisaket Province and the Heng Samrin faction. Since we gain something from the temple, it is unreasonable for us to help another faction to seize the temple. Such a move will only damage tourism. [end recording]

Minister Says Policy Toward Cambodia Unchanged

BK0707143293 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Commenting on the statement of Mrs. Madeline Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, that the United States will not give assistance to the national Armed Forces of Cambodia if it includes the Khmer Rouge, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said that the Thai Government will not make any change in its attitude in connection with the decisions made by the Cambodian people. The participation in national reconstruction in Cambodia by Thai troops depends on UN decisions.

[Begin Prasong recording] If there is no UN force in Cambodia, how can we stay in that country? We must see if the Cambodian Government wants our troops there or not. Our troops will be in Cambodia as long as the UN force remains there. [end recording]

Logging Firms Seek Joint Ventures With Burmese

BK0807014793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jul 93 p 26

[Text] Thai logging firms are to seek joint ventures with the Burmese government in an effort to keep their businesses alive, a source says.

The Burmese government announced recently that it is to end all logging concessions at the end of the year, a move which will affect as many as 40 Thai logging companies which are the holders of 47 concessions in Burma.

More than 30 Thai companies have approached the Burmese authorities for joint ventures in saw milling and plywood manufacturing, according to Mr Karin Tongpatchote, chairman of ONK Mining and Construction

Co Ltd. ONK buys logs from Burma and is a member of the confederation representing Thai firms granted logging concessions there.

Mr Karin says the move will give the companies continued supplies of logs after the concession ends at the end of the year. ONK has also proposed a venture with the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) to produce plywood, parquet, veneer, and furniture for export to its own buyers.

The joint venture will be for the production of 2.4 million pieces of plywood per year. The company has a 600 million baht investment in the venture.

The MTE is currently considering the proportion of investment between it and ONK. Mr Karin says the company has proposed three choices for the Burmese officials: 50-50, 45-55 or 55-45.

His company also proposed a joint venture reafforestation project after the cutting down of trees in the concession areas, road construction, and employment of local Burmese other than the cutting down of trees.

He expected that MTE and the company would decide on the joint venture soon and if possible could start operations before the logging concessions end.

"The company proposes to build a good relationship with Burma because the company has never bought illegal logs from the Burmese, and every log the company buys has a certificate of origin," Mr Karin says.

He insisted that ventures with Burma were the best way of ending the logging concessions.

Meanwhile, an informed source says the Burmese government is investigating the logging business in the Burmese territories of some Thai concessionaires.

The investigation follows suspicions by the Burmese authorities that at least four Thai logging companies abused the concession terms. As many as seven logging companies, including Thai ones, may have cut down trees of the wrong size, cut them down outside the concession areas, or cut down more of them than stated in the agreement.

Some companies are also suspected of supporting minority groups along the border.

According to the agreement, the logging companies are required to build roads to their concession areas. However, aerial surveys of many concession areas by the Burmese authorities show that Thai concessionaires built more roads than agreed and some were built outside the concession areas.

Some Burmese and Thais living along the border have cut down trees near the logging concessions. However, this illegal cutting is assumed by the Burmese authorities to be the responsibility of the Thai firms.

He says the Burmese government has blacklisted seven logging companies to investigate whether they abused the concessions.

Last month the Burmese Government set up two investigation teams comprising the MTE and the Burmese Forestry Department. The first team began looking at the concessions from the North to Mae Sot, and another team looked from Mae Sot to Victoria Point. Evidence has not yet emerged to suggest that the Thai logging firms did anything wrong.

Many Illegal Burmese Living in Tak Province

BK0707030993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Jul 93 p 6

[Text] Tak—Mae Ramat District officials yesterday arrested 131 illegal Burmese immigrants hiding at several rented houses and sent them to a holding centre at Ban Dong Pa Kiat in this northern border district.

The number of the Burmese arrested yesterday, however, represented only a small portion of those illegally crossing the border to stay in Tak, estimated at more than 20,000.

Mae Ramat District chief Chaloemchai Fuangkhon said officials expected to round up more than 1,000 Burmese illegal immigrants yesterday but it happened that the plan to arrest them had been leaked, enabling most of the Burmese to escape to other districts.

Among the 131 arrested were nine women and six children, Mr Chaloemchai said.

He said the Burmese entering Thailand illegally were usually hired as workers by Thai logging and construction companies or worked on farms.

But some illegal Burmese immigrants had even caused trouble for Thai people by committing crimes or spreading communicable diseases, Mr Chaloemchai said.

Col [Colonel] Suwit Maenmoen, commander of Task Force 34, earlier called on the Tak provincial administration to work out measures that can effectively control the influx of illegal Burmese immigrants into this northern province.

Col Suwit said that as many as 500 Burmese people cross the border into Tak daily and most of them refuse to return to Burma, making the number of those arrested and put in the holding centre rise from about 30,000 last year to about 40,000 now.

He said the illegal entry of the Burmese has already made the building of houses for rent at the border a booming business.

Col Suwit said he did not know the exact number of Burmese illegally working in Tak's border districts but estimated that there would be more than 20,000.

Col Suwit's deputy, Col Witchu Saengdoen, said some government officials have cooperated in smuggling the Burmese to work in Bangkok and other provinces.

Col Witchu said he had spotted a police patrol car leading a truck carrying about 20 Burmese on the Mae Sot-Tak Highway.

When he stopped the police car for questioning, Col Witchu said, the officers told him they were taking the Burmese to a farm of a police major general in another province.

Col Witchu said he told the police officers they were violating the law and ordered them to take the Burmese back to Mae Sot District.

Procurers of Burmese workers reportedly demanded about 3,000 to 5,000 baht from a Burmese while at the same time they would receive about 5,000 to 15,000 baht from the Thai employees depending on the number of workers they supplied.

A Tak immigration officer, Pol Lt Col [Police Lieutenant Colonel] Kriangyut Ritthisak-chollakhet, conceded that it was difficult to block the Burmese from illegally entering Thailand owing to the lack of staff. The influx has already turned some areas into Burmese communities.

Pol Lt Col Kriangyut said his office last month arrested 600 illegal Burmese immigrants and immediately deported them as it did not have enough money to pay for their food if detained.

Prisons at police stations in Tak's border districts were reportedly crowded with illegal Burmese immigrants. Some of them reportedly had to stand to sleep as there was not enough space on the floor.

'Fuss' Over Dictionary Definition Questioned

BK0607030093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Jul 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Why All the Fuss Over Longman's Definition?"]

[Text] Rome was not built in one day, so is international impression of a city or for that matter a country. Bangkok is a case in point. Why is Paris a city of lovers and honeymooners while Bangkok is famous for its beautiful temples and prostitutes?

For the Longman publisher and editorial staff to agree unanimously over the definition of Bangkok would not be difficult. Records from press clippings including television and radio reports from around the world in the last two decades must have repeated the word "prostitution" thousands of times in association with Thailand's capital. Gone are the days when Bangkok was known for its khlongs as "Venice of the East" or "Land of Smiles" or "City of Angels."

In a mere two decades then, the city's image has sunk rock-bottom in the eyes of the international community. If the same trend of reporting or documentation continues as they are and unchallenged, the same image and definition would again find its way into other publications.

Worse given the frequent references used, the word "prostitute" has now become synonymous with Bangkok. It would not be surprising if the definition appeared in the next edition of any world encyclopedia. Who knows, one day in the history of mankind, the notoriety of Bangkok could be inscribed in a stone tablet and sent to the moon by a rocket.

The whole phenomena really boils down to the peculiarity of the Thai attitude—which is pretty hypocritical—that "anything seen should not be formally aired," especially on embarrassing topics inside the country. In Thailand, news of prostitutes are common and widely debated. Whore-houses are everywhere. Nobody has been ashamed of anything when vernacular papers published on their front pages picture after picture of young prostitutes arrested by the police. But when the TIME magazine recently run a cover with a Thai bar girl, it caused temperatures to rise throughout the bureaucracy.

Under this context, it is understandable why the authorities always react, the way they do, whenever there are controversial reports about Thailand's negative aspects such as massage parlours or child labour.

The dictionary was of course correct in associating Thailand at the tail-end of the century with prostitution. But whether it was biased and discriminated against the country in comparison with other cities is another matter.

In this age of information, those who own the media control information and the "truth", especially media that has access to the four corners of the world. In the past, Thailand was known as "Venice of the East," or "Land of Smiles" apart from many others. Thais love those names because they convey the country's positive image. Even though, some of the khlongs, that made up beautiful Bangkok in the past, have given way to ugly buildings, Thais are still happy to refer to their country by those names, created by editors or copywriters.

Govermnent spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa appeared a bit naive when he defended Thailand against Longman's definition by saying that a future Thai dictionary may define England as a former colony hunter that killed scores of natives. If indeed Thailand wants to do so, it has to ascertain that the country has the same kind of publishing house and the same prestige as Longman. Furthermore, it is doubtful if anyone would care enough to reach for a Thai dictionary to find a definition of England.

Indeed, whenever Thailand wants to promote tourism, the laidback atmosphere with exciting nightlife has been resorted to in order to attract foreigners. Worse, it is widely known throughout the world that Thailand, especially Phatthaya, was an excellent R and R place for American soldiers, who dumped million of dollars on each of their short stops during the Vietnam war.

In fact, when local papers blasted the mischievous Longman's dictionary, pictures of United States' marines landing at Phatthaya were given front page treatment in local papers with captions exulting their presence as it would boost the local economy.

To put it bluntly prostitution has become a way of life in Thailand. As long as Thai society's patriarchal structure persists and income disparity continues unresolved, prostitution will continue to defy any moral or legal order of things.

That the Thai government should protest and boycott Longman is within their power. The Foreign Ministry has already sent a protest letter to the publisher saying that Thais are appalled and outraged at this inappropriate description of Bangkok.

Amid a barrage of comments from senior Thai officials, only the one made by Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasatian showed any sense. He said it was unnecessary to protest foreigners' perception of Thailand. "This is not a shameful matter. We can't prevent them from doing it. It is a reflection we have to accept and should not get angry because it suggests what other people think of us," he said.

In the end, one has to question oneself whether Thai authorities would learn from the whole episode or continue with their kneejerk reactions as always. The naked truth is that even if the publishing house decides later to delete the reference—for whatever reasons, economic or political—the current misery endured by Thai prostitutes will continue.

British Firm Apologizes

BK0607025093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Jul 93 pp 1, 3

[Text] British company Longman Group U.K. Ltd has sent a letter to the Foreign Ministry apologising to the Thai Government and people if the entry for Bangkok in its New Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture causes offence and withdrawn the book from sale here.

The apology came as Police Special Branch press officer Pol Maj-Gen [Police Major-General] Prayut Suphachariyawat issued an order banning sale or distribution of the dictionary and confiscating all copies and printing plates of the publication, saying the entry for Bangkok was against moral principles.

But BBC Radio in London told BANGKOK POST late last night that Longman had decided to recall all copies of the controversial dictionary from Thailand and delete the part considered offensive to Thais in the next edition.

"We are sensitive to the feelings of the Thai people and therefore we will withdraw the current definition from the next reprint, planned at the end of the year," wire services quoted the publisher as saying.

The letter to the Foreign Ministry, dated July 2, was in reply to the Foreign Ministry's protest note.

"Longman understands and sympathises with the concern expressed by the Thai Government in connection with the entry for Bangkok in the Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture," the letter said.

"Our responsibility as dictionary publishers is to ensure that the explanation of the meaning and connotations of words represents typical current usage.

"This we do by analysing documentary evidence, in our corpus of language, drawn from over 2,000 books and magazines from international English.

"This particular dictionary aims to set words in their cultural context and the connotations attached to the word Bangkok and commonly understood by native speakers of English are drawn from books and magazines in our word bank.

"This does not represent any form of cultural bias, and so for example there are also entries for areas of London, such as Soho and King's Cross that include similar information. "The dictionary will be regularly updated at least once a year to ensure that the information it contains is up-to-date."

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri insisted that the undesirable description of Bangkok must ultimately be deleted, but said this could only be done step by step.

He said he would continue to work with the Thai embassy in London in order to achieve this goal.

"Although they have apologised, we have to continue watching their attitude," Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said.

Earlier yesterday, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai repeated that the dictionary entry could serve as a lesson for some organisations in the country, which may have given information to people outside the country in the hope of obtaining support, that they could harm the country's reputation.

The Premier said he was not sure whether there were more people in the flesh trade in London than in Bangkok.

Mr Chuan said all countries had their own problems.

Some British people who came to Thailand caused problems, including with narcotic drugs.

He said British Prime Minister John Major recently sent a letter to him about British prisoners on drug charges in

Thailand because false information was released in England that Thailand's judicial process was unsatisfactory.

But most prisoners had in fact confessed to the charges, he said.

He said it was inappropriate for a highly developed country to define another country in an unfavourable way.

Air Force Chief Lauds Air Defence System

BK0707025593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Jul 93 p 6

[Text] Royal Thai Air Force Commander-in-Chief Kan Phimanthip says Thailand's air defence system is ranked one of the 10 best in the world.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan said yesterday he has asked the House Armed Services Committee to help push through the Air Force's budgets for next fiscal year. Funds to cover a "very necessary" air defence system project were sought.

"With the Air Force's air defence system we have now, we're one of the world's 10 best," ACM Kan said.

The House Armed Services Committee, led by ex-army chief Athit Kamlang-ek, visited the Air Force Headquarters in Bangkok and the Air Wing One in Nakhon Ratchasima yesterday.

The Athit committee was briefed about the Air Force's air defence system at the Don Muang headquarters and expressed satisfaction with it, according to the air force chief.

Gen [General] Athit pledged to support appropriations for the Air Force in Parliament.

The air force chief said the Air Force's air defence system project was into its ninth year and was being implemented in the South after it being completed in the Northeast and Central regions.

However, he declined to say how much such a high-tech system would cost or whether it has already been given specific funds among the more than 17,000 million baht budget for the Air Force next fiscal year.

The air defence system relies largely on high-technology equipment and coordinates closely with the so-called triple C system [command, control and communication].

ACM Kan explained that the Supreme Command was running the triple C system under which military operations would be carried out with real time orders given from the supreme commander to the commander-in-chief of each service.

But there was still no such system specifically deployed by the Air Force yet.

ACM Kan said he expected the Athit committee to help the Air Force with its air defence system project which would need a considerable budget for procurement of high-technology equipment.

Some members of the House Armed Services Committee also sit on the 1994 Budget Scrutiny Committee.

He said the system was very necessary.

"Some of our neighbours are going to get better weapons systems. We too should have an improved defence system," ACM Kan said.

The air force chief apparently referred to Malaysia which plans to procure 18 MiG-29 Fulcrum fighters from Russia and eight F/A-18 Hornet fighters from the United States.

ACM Kan had recently said Malaysia would have greater air power than Thailand with those modern combat aircraft.

Meanwhile, the House Armed Services Committee chairman said he and his committee members would help explain to the 1994 Budget Scrutiny Committee the necessary air force projects including the air defence system, procurement of high-technology equipment related to such defence plans and the air force personnel housing project.

However, those air force projects would be very costly, particularly procurement of high-technology equipment, and would take several years to finish, Gen Athit said.

"The House Armed Services Committee will tell Parliament and the people of the necessity of the air force projects such as the one to build up housing (for air force personnel), which are so much needed. They would cost a lot and it might take three to five years to finish the housing project."

Gen Athit said he and his committee members had no doubts about the Air Force's projects including those for procurement of weapon systems but were satisfied with progress that the Air Force has made in development of its defence plans, technology equipment and pilots.

Vietnam

California Lieutenant Governor Visits HCMC

BK0807064393 Hanoi VNA in English 0548 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 8—Mr. Leo McCarthy, lieut. governor of California (the United States) visited Ho Chi Minh City from July 4-7 as guest of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vietnam.

While there, Lieut. Governor Leo McCarthy called at various production establishments and offices, and met with many businessmen.

He was cordially received by Nguyen Van Huan, vice-chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City.

Le Duc Anh Receives Bank of America Delegation

BK0407150493 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 4—President Le Duc Anh received here yesterday afternoon the Bank of America (B.A.) delegation led by Richard Rosenberg, president of the B.A. Group, on the occasion of the establishment of a B.A. representative office in Hanoi.

Present at the reception were Le Van Chau, vice governor of the Vietnam State Bank, and Hoang Tuan, deputy head of the president's office.

Mr. R. Rosenberg welcomed the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the renovation process over the past years.

He informed the Vietnamese president of the Bank of America's activities and measures aimed at promoting the cooperation between the B.A. and the Vietnam State Bank, thus making practical contributions to the strengthening of the cooperative relations between the United States and Vietnam in the economic, commercial, and tourist fields.

For his part, President Le Duc Anh expressed his belief that in the future the cooperation between the two banks would be further developed, in order to enhance the relations between the two countries and the two nations.

On this occasion, President R. Rosenberg presented President Le Duc Anh with a pine tree brought from California to be planted in Vietnam as a token of the cooperative ties between B.A. and the Vietnam State Bank.

Commentary Hails Prime Minister's European Tour

BK0707130393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has successfully concluded his official visits to France, Germany, Belgium, the European Community Committee, and Britain. Here is our radio editor's opinion.

The visit will open up a new era in the cooperative and friendly relations between Vietnam and the West European countries, as well as the European Community. These countries have understood Vietnam further and acknowledged the role played by Vietnam in the region. They highly valued Vietnam's dynamism in the effort to integrate into the world community. Leaders of the countries that Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visited all expressed their readiness to help Vietnam overcome difficulties in its national reconstruction. The European Community also declared it would increase financial assistance to Vietnam for economic development, repay debts for Vietnam, and provide capital and technologies. With these results, Vietnam will continue to make further progress in both international cooperation and national rennovation.

Bank Official on Relations With IMF, Others

BK0707154793 Hanoi VNA in English 1340 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 7—In an interview granted to the HANOI EVENING NEWS daily, Le Van Chau, vice governor of the Vietnam State Bank, said:

The US Administration has declared to unblock other countries' efforts to support Vietnam in settling its arrears to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This will create conditions for Vietnam to resume normal borrowing/relations with IMF and other financial and monetary institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank [ADB]. When such relations are normalized, our country will be able to borrow from these organisations according to their modalities and conditions.

Q: What sources of capital could Vietnam borrow from?

A: In the coming period, Vietnam can secure some capital, especially from soft loans to invest in key-areas of the economy such as infrastructure, transport, communication, education and health. How much of foreign capital, including money of international institutions, depends on our requirements and capacity of management.

Q: At any rate, this will accelerate economic growth, slow down inflation and generate employment. How shall normalization of relations with international financial institutions benefit Vietnam's business circles?

A: As Vietnam is normalizing relations with the international monetary community and capital is easier to come by, Vietnamese business circles and foreign investors alike will have more conditions to secure funds for long-term and stable businesses in Vietnam. The important thing is that businessmen and investors must produce concrete and feasible projects and abide by Vietnamese law.

Question: What shall the state bank do in near future to expand monetary relations with other countries?

Answer: The most important thing at present is that we must settle our arrears with IMF and work out an economic readjustment programme to be monitored by IMF. At the same time we have to prepare a programme and concrete projects to borrow capital, especially from World Bank and ADB. Besides, we will increase our contacts and exchanges with American banks. At present, a delegation of Bank of America is in Vietnam.

It has had discussions with the state bank and opened a representative office in Hanoi. It has signed a contract on money transfer with the Vietnam bank for foreign trade. Another major US bank, Citibank, is preparing to open a representative office in Vietnam.

The most important thing is that we must be well prepared to make the most effective use of the borrowed capital, and to preserve it in order to raise our prestige and position on the international arena.

Japan, France To Help Country Pay IMF Loan

BK0707103193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Japan and France plan to lend Vietnam the money in September to pay back its arrears at the International Monetary Fund. The money will help Vietnam rejoin other international monetary bodies. Eight other countries will also lend Vietnam the money to pay the IMF debt, and France and Japan will make up more than 50 percent of the bulk.

President Receives Swiss Economic Delegation

BK0707155193 Hanoi VNA in English 1422 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 7—President Le Duc Anh received at the presidential palace here this afternoon an economic delegation of Switzerland led by ambassador in charge of economic agreements Nicolas Imdoden on a current five-day visit to Vietnam.

The president welcomed the delegation's visit as a manifestation of the Swiss Government and people's support to Vietnam. He expressed sincere thanks to the Swiss Government and people for their support and assistance to Vietnam over the past years, and his belief in the further development of the effective cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

For his part, Mr Nicolas Imdoden, who is also depty head of the Federal Department of Public Economy, spoke highly of Vietnam's diversified foreign policy and the Vietnamese people's achievements in the renovation process in recent years. He reaffirmed the profound sentiments and continued support of the Swiss Government and people to Vietnam.

Also today, Switzerland and Vietnam signed an agreement on a Swiss credit of 40 million Swiss Francs (27 million US dollars) to Vietnam, a commercial agreement and an agreement on economic cooperation.

Official Attends Mekong Committee Meeting in Laos

BK0207150293 Hanoi VNA in English 1444 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 2—A Vietnamese delegation led by Hoang Trong Quang, head of the international cooperation department of the Ministry of Water Resources, and standing secretary of the Mekong Committee, attended the 3rd session of the Mekong Interim Committee's Working Group held in Vientiane on June 27-29.

The Vietnamese delegation and representative of the other three- member countries of the committee, namely Laos, Thailand and Cambodia heard a report delivered by K.G. Singh, regional director of the United Nations Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific on the committee's activities since it 2nd session held in Bangkok on April 5 this year. They discussed the draft on cooperation in exploiting and using Mekong water resources in the future.

The 4th session of the committee's working group will by held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on September 27-28, 1993.

Further Reportage on National Assembly Session

7 Jul Proceedings Reported

BK0707142793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Today, the Third Session of the Ninth National Assembly continued in the Conference Hall under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy.

In the morning, after listening to Comrade Dang Quan Thuy's report on issues relating to the draft regulations governing the activities of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the deputies contributed their views to the draft regulations. Then the National Assembly passed the draft regulations governing the activities of the National Assembly Standing Committee with a majority of votes.

After that, Comrade Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, read the draft regulations governing the activities of the National Assembly Nationalities Council and other National Assembly committees. Comrade Vu Mao, head of the National Assembly Secretariat, reported on the views contributed by National Assembly deputies on the draft regulations. The National Assembly deputies continued to contribute their views to the draft regulations governing the activities of the National Assembly Nationalities Council and other National Assembly committees. At the end of the morning meeting, the deputies voted on the appointments of Comrade Tran Van Nhan to the position of vice chairman of the National Assembly Economic and Budget Committee, and of Comrade Nguyen Van Tu to the position of member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee.

Early in the afternoon, after listening to the results of the vote, the deputies received a report from Comrade Vu Mao, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, on the draft of the National Assembly's resolution on the supplementary appointment of Comrade Tran Van

Nhan to the position of vice chairman of the National Assembly Economic and Budget Committee, and on the draft of the National Assembly's resolution on the appointment of Comrade Nguyen Van Tu to the position of member of the National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee. The National Assembly then voted and passed the two resolutions with a clear majority.

Next, Comrade Vu Mao, on behalf of the Secretariat, presented a report on the amended draft of the Work Procedures of National Assembly deputies and delegations, which accommodated all contributions from National Assembly deputies. Comrade Bui Ngoc Thanh, representing the Secretariat, read the full text of the amended National Assembly Work Procedures of Deputies and Delegations. The deputies contributed their views and the National Assembly passed the procedures with a clear majority.

Late in the afternoon session, Comrade Luong Ngoc Toan, on behalf of the Secretariat, presented a number of issues relating to the draft publishing law and the review of all deputies' contributions to the draft. The National Assembly then voted and passed the draft publishing law with a clear majority.

Tomorrow, the National Assembly deputies will continue to work in the Conference Hall.

Communique No. 13 Issued

BK0707160893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Communique No. 13 of the Ninth National Assembly's Third Session]

[Text] On 7 July, National Assembly deputies held a plenary session at the Conference Hall under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy.

The deputies discussed the draft operational regulations of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The 13 deputies who expressed their views were Nguyen Van Rang and Vu Tuat Viet from Ho Chi Minh City; Nguyen Viet Dung, Tang Van Luy, and Nguyen Van Phong from Ha Bac; Nguyen Van Tam from Ha Tay; Trang A Pao from Lao Cai; Nguyen thi Binh from Quang Nam-Danang; Vo Nguyen Quang from Thua Thien Hue; Vu Duc Hien from Hanoi; Nguyen Khac Tao from Ha Tinh; Ha Van Noi from Vinh Phu; and Pham Hung from Hai Hung.

The National Assembly voted to pass the operational regulations of the National Assembly Standing Committee. Next, member of the Secretariat Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, on behalf of the Secretariat and the committee drafting the operational regulations of the Nationalities Council and the committees of the National Assembly, read a report on the views gathered from National Assembly deputies and the draft readjustment to these two operational regulations. She also read the full text of the two draft regulations that have been readjusted.

The 14 deputies who presented their views on these two regulations were Nguyen Quoc Thuoc from Nghe An, Ho Go from Quang Tri, Phan Minh Thanh from Tien Giang, Trang A Lu from Son La, Tran Hoa from Quang Binh, Do Quoc Hung from Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Mai Thuc Lan and Tang Van Luy from Ha Bac, Hoang Bich Son from Binh Thua, Yngong Nie Kdam from Dac Lac, Cu Hoa Van from Lao Cai, Pham Hung from Hai Hung, Dang Khoi from Nam Ha, and Phan Thu from Ha Tay.

Comrade Vu Mao, head of the meeting Secretariat, expressed his views on the questions raised by National Assembly deputies.

The deputies voted to pass the operational regulations of the Nationalities Council and other committees of the National Assembly. They also elected additional personnel to some committees of the National Assembly.

Deputy Tran Van Nhan from Binh was elected vice chairman of the National Assembly Economic and Budgetary Committee and Deputy Nguyen Van Tu from Dong Nai was elected member of the National Assembly External Relations Committee. The deputies then passed the resolution on the election of these additional personnel.

The National Assembly heard Comrade Vu Mao, head of the meeting Secretariat, read a report on the views gathered from National Assembly deputies and the draft readjustment to the draft operational regulations of National Assembly deputies and groups of National Assembly deputies. It also heard Comrade Bui Ngoc Thanh, member of the meeting Secretariat, read the full text of the draft operational regulations.

The 21 deputies who expressed their views on these draft regulations were Catholic Priest Phan Khac Thu and Superior Bonze Thich Minh Chau from Ho Chi Minh City, Nguyen Thi Nhung from Ha Bac, Trinh Xuan Mao from Thanh Hoa, Hoang Cong Dung from Yen Bai, Pham Thi Son from Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Nguyen Duc Thang from Kien Giang, Dang Quoc Tien from Bac Thai, Ha Thi Thu Xuong from Quang Na-Danang, Nguyen Binh Danh from Quang Ninh, Vo Tong Xuan from Can Tho, Tran Hoa from Quang Binh, Tran Quoc Thai from Ha Tinh, Bui Huu Hai and Dinh Van The from Vinh Phu, Vu Manh Rinh from Thai Binh, Trang A Pao and Cu Ha Van from Lao Cai, Nguyen Duy Anh from Lam Dong, Lo Chung Thanh from Nghe An, and Tran Anh Kiet from Quang Ngai.

The National Assembly voted to pass the operational systems of National Asembly deputies and groups of National Assembly deputies. Later, the National Assembly continued working on the draft of the law on publication.

Comrade Luong Ngoc Toan, on behalf of the meeting Secretariat and the scrutinizing and drafting committees, read a report on the views gathered from National Assembly deputies on the draft law on publication. The National Assembly voted to pass this law.

On 8 July, the National Assembly deputies will work at the Conference Hall.

8 Jul Morning Session Reported

BK0807072593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Today, 8 July, the National Assembly deputies held a plenary session in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall. National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh directed the session.

The deputies heard Comrade Luong Xuan Quy, who, on behalf of the secretariat, presented a report summing up the views contributed by the National Assembly deputies during their group discussions on the implementation of socioeconomic development tasks in the first half of 1993.

Next, the National Assembly heard some government officials answering questions raised by the deputies. Comrade Do Quoc Sam, director of the State Planning Commission, answered questions about investment in economic development in the mountain regions and about investment in capital construction for 1993. Comrade Phan Van Dinh, deputy minister of finance, answered a number of questions about financial and state budget issues, including budget balance, funding for a number of major projects, measures to curb inflation from now until the end of 1993, job development, investment in the campaign to cover empty land and bare hills in mountain provinces with greenery, and imposition of income tax on house sellers and real estate dealers. Comrade Thai Phung Le, minister of energy, answered a number of questions about electricity prices, the construction of power distribution networks to benefit the countryside at present, the pace of construction and funding for the 500 kv-powerline, compensations for people affected by the Long Ho Basin relocation program to facilitate the Song Da River hydroelectric power building project, and the construction of the Nam Cau hydroelectric power station in Muong Te District of Lai Chau Province.

Also at this morning's session, the deputies heard the following: Comrade Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of labor, war invalid, and social welfare, presented a report on the application of the new wage system. Comrade Le Van Triet, minister of commerce, answered a number of questions about agricultural product marketing and consumption.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will continue to meet in plenary session in the conference hall.

Minerology, Geology Trade Union Holds Congress

BK0407145693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] In Hanoi this morning the Trade Union of Vietnam Minerology and Geology Sector held its 5th congress. Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, and Comrade Nguyen Van Tu, chairman of the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers, attended and delivered speeches.

The Trade Union of Vietnam Minerology and Geology Sector achieved many practical objectives in its last term of office, such as the creation of over 1,000 jobs for new workers and other personnel, the successful labor simulation movements, and awarding of the title of Excellent Laborer to 140 groups and 560 individuals.

The congress attendants set new objectives for the trade union in the next term of office as follows: socialize union activities, concentrate on and give first priority to caring for workers' interests, raise funds to assist workers' families in developing home economy, create more jobs, and increase workers' income. The union will also cooperate with other sectors to advocate employment for children of workers once they reach working age.

In order to fulfill these tasks, the congress attendants contended that the skills and knowledge of the contingent of workers and cadres need to be standardized and enhanced.

HCMC's Rural Development in Outlying Areas Viewed

BK0407071693 Hanoi VNA in English 0605 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 4—The multi-sectoral economic policy in the past few years has deeply affected agricultural production and rural life in outlying districts of Ho Chi Minh City.

The annual growth rate in the city's agricultural production rose from 2 percent in the 1980s to 5.6 percent in 1990. Last year, agricultural output value totalled 1,140 billion dong, accounting for 4.1 percent of the total output value of the city. Meanwhile food production reached 268,000 tonnes, up by 52,000 tonnes over 1991.

The state supply of new farming techniques including new, highyield hybrids of crops and animals has helped raise the rice yield to 3.2 tonnes per hectare (up by 7 percent over 1990) and the shrimp yield increased by 16 percent.

Encouraged by initial results, the local farmers in the six suburban districts have invested billions of dong in aquaculture, dairy farming and restoration of handicraft and traditional trades such as rice cake making and rattan and bamboo knitting. Some 28,000 households are engaged in farm production, services and small trades in the private sector. These trades have helped the local farmers increase their incomes and improve their living conditions.

As a result, the face of the outer suburbs is changing rapidly. Almost all the villages have electricity and water. 80 out of 100 villages on the city outskirts have been provided with safe water from UNICEF-funded wells. Road systems have been upgraded and monkey bridges rebuilt for motor traffic. Irrigation works have transformed 12,000 hectares of fallow land into fertile fields. Some 30,000 hectares of salted land has been drained and intensified against seasonal folds. Recent surveys showed that about 18.6 percent of the agricultural households own their motorcycles, 13.3 percent own television sets and 70 percent have built brick houses. The number of well off families incerased from 7 percent in 1990 to over 15 pecent in 1992.

An agricultural survey conducted at the end of 1992 showed 67.5 percent of the rich farmers income came from cultivation and stock breeding and the remaining 32.5 percent from all trades and services.

Nong Duc Manh Attends Cultural, Artistic Shows

BK0507141093 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] In Hanoi on 30 June, the Tay Bac and Viet Bac Cultural and Artistic Schools held a variety show night to entertain National Assembly deputies currently attending the Ninth National Assembly's Third Session. Attending the function were Nong Duc Manh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of National Assembly, as well as many other deputies.

A total of 50 ethnic students of the two schools, representing ethnic minorities in the region, namely the Tay, Nung, Thai, Mnong, Lo Lo, and so forth, performed many traditional dances and songs.

After the show, Comrade Nong Duc Manh, on behalf of the National Assembly deputies, thanked the teachers and students of these two schools. He also urged them to train and produce more cultural and artistic cadres to improve the spiritual life of ethnic minorities in the localities.

Ho Chi Minh City Inspection Sector Reviews Tasks

BK0607124393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh City inspection sector has investigated 58 cases of irregularities during the past six months involving losses in business, debts, waste, tax evasion, and embezzlement. According to the sector, this has resulted in a loss to the state amounting to 37 billion dong, 277 taels of gold, more than $157 [figure as heard], and six houses.

Officials of the sector said that although great efforts have been made to recover these losses, implementation of the sector's orders after investigation are carried out loosely.

It is necessary to note that leaders of the sector have not carried out their tasks seriously in accordance with their authority, thus leaving many cases unresolved. Moreover, illegal interventions in the inspection work are still prevalent.

The Ho Chi Minh City inspection sector asked the city people's committee to review and definitely settle various cases already investigated by the sector and other branches and echelons.

Influx of Northerners to Other Provinces Viewed

BK0507114193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] During the 1980-92 period, a total of 204,000 persons voluntarily moved from the northern provinces to resettle in provinces of the central highlands and southeastern areas of Vietnam.

Since early this year, the influx has continued. In Dac Lac Province alone, for instance, hundreds of people have moved in every month. Most of these people are ethnic minorities from Cao Bang, Lang Son, Quang Ninh, Lao Cai, Son La, and Thanh Hoa Provinces.

To resolve this issue, the government Commission for Ethnic Minorities and Mountain Regions recently held a conference with representatives of the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare, and other ministries and agencies concerned to discuss issues related to this problem and file a report to the prime minister suggesting policies and measures aimed at providing assistance to these ethnic minorities to help them quickly resume production and stabilize their daily life.

The Commission for Ethnic Minorities and Mountain Regions suggested that, pending the prime minister's decision, provinces that experience ethnic minority migration should conduct surveys to classify categories of these minorities while mobilizing the local people to help them overcome their immediate difficulties.

Pacific Nations Welcome French Nuclear Decision

BK0507060693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] South Pacific nations have welcomed the French decision to maintain its moratorium on nuclear testing in the region. The secretary general of the South Pacific Forum, (Jeremiah Tumbai), believes the decision will strengthen relations with France. Erina Reddan from our South Pacific bureau reports:

[Begin Reddan recording] France has angered Pacific nations in the past over its regional colonial practices and nuclear policies. This decision increases the warmth in relations which France has been pursuing over the last few years. Mr. (Tumbai) says the decision particularly opens the way for closer cooperation with French territories in the region, which specifically they had been working towards since last year's heads of government meeting in Solomon Islands. Mr. (Tumbai) said the South Pacific had kept up strong and persistent lobbying against testing in the region and could claim some of the credit for extension of the moratorium. [end recording]

Australia

Keating Welcomes Clinton Support for APEC Meet

BK0707075093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, says he warmly welcomes the announcement that the United States is proposing to host an APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] leaders' summit. In a statement released in Canberra, Mr. Keating says he has already written to President Clinton pledging Australia's firm support for the proposal. American President Bill Clinton has personally backed one of Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating's favorite ideas making the upcoming meeting of APEC, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Group, a heads of governments summit. On the first day of the G-7 meeting in Tokyo, Mr. Keating says he will push world leaders to attend the talks in the American city of Seattle in November.

[Begin Clinton recording] The 15 members of APEC account for nearly half of the world's output and most of the fastest-growing economies. This fall we will host the APEC ministerial meeting in Seattle. I will speak at that meeting to signal America's engagement in the region, but I hope we can go beyond it. I am consulting with the leaders of APEC at this moment on a proposal that they join me in Seattle in an informal leadership conference to discuss what we can do to continue to bring down the barriers that divide us and to create more opportunities for all of our people.

[Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 7 Jul in a similar report adds: "'I advised him I will attend the leaders meeting if it goes ahead on the basis proposed,' said Keating. 'Australia believes the APEC process offers an historic opportunity to promote the economic integration of the Asia-Pacific region in a way that serves the interests of all members and is compatible with a sound multilateral trading system.'

["If the summit went ahead, it would be the first step in an important process to ensure that APEC achieves 'its great potential for economic integration' in the Asia-Pacific region, Keating said.

["This year's meeting is expected to consider a trade and investment framework agreement and what he described Wednesday as "an action agenda of trade-liberalising measures." Keating's plan is to use APEC to develop common principles in investment, harmonisation of standards in manufacturing, market access, disputes settlement and other areas.

["He said Australia had been active in helping define an effective role and agenda for APEC and there had been 'very positive reactions' from Washington and other APEC capitals to his plan. He believes a heads of government meeting—or 'leaders' meeting', in deference to the sensitivities of China—would give APEC the muscle to pursue free trade aims in the fast growing Asia Pacific region. Beijing would oppose attendance by Taiwan at 'a heads of government meeting' although one proposed solution is that Taiwan be represented at foreign minister level at a leaders' meeting.

["Resistance to an APEC summit has also come from Malaysia which is promoting a rival economic grouping, the East Asian Economic Caucus, which excludes Australia, Canada and the United States."]

Government Remains Cautious

BK0807063893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The Tokyo trade deal and President Clinton's call for a meeting of leaders of the 15-member Asia Pacific Economic Forum, APEC, is potentially advantageous to Australian producers. However, Graeham World reports that while Australia welcomes the moves, it remains distinctly cautious.

[Begin World recording] Australia's trade negotiators in Geneva will use the Tokyo deal to try to lock in an agreement on agriculture. A successful outcome could, by the end of the decade, be worth billions of dollars annually for domestic producers. But there is still much to be done and French reaction will be important. Turning to APEC, the leader's meeting was Paul Keating's idea to give the forum more horsepower on trade and economic issues. But uncertainty over Malaysia's response and China's objections to Taiwan have already seen the government's acknowledging possible setback. [end recording]

Minister on Self-Reliance in Defense Policy

BK0607125193 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 28 May 93 pp 15, 18

[Article entitled: "Self-reliance: a guiding light to the future" by Senator Robert Ray, Australian minister of defense]

[Text] The global security environment today is arguably more volatile than at any stage in the past 40 years. Increasingly, people are coming to challenge earlier confident assertions of a new world order as, on their televisions each night or through the daily papers, they are made witness to the growing chaos in the Balkans, the rise of tension in South Africa, the instabilities of the Middle East or the difficulties emerging in Cambodia.

It is the accepted wisdom of Australia's defense policy that we, as a member of the Asia-Pacific group of nations, are less subject to the changes and instabilities being experienced by the nations of Africa, the Middle East and Central Europe. This is generally true and it is certainly the case that, unlike other countries in those areas, there remains for Australia no credible likelihood of any military threat arising in the foreseeable future. However, this is not to say we are completely immune to the changes that have swept the world in recent years.

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, domestic pressure in the United States has arisen seeking a significant "peace dividend"—President Clinton's defense budget adjustments and the removal of the United States' presence in our region. The collapse of the Soviet Union and of communist States in central and eastern Europe have also released a large amount of military equipment, including the possibility of weapons of mass destruction, on to the world arms market. The possibility exists that some of this equipment will find its way into regional inventories, although claims of a potential regional arms race are quite off track. The situation in Cambodia is still volatile and territorial disputes over the Spratly Islands bear watching closely, as do the border tensions between Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Further afield, we are watching developments concerning North Korea's nuclear program that could have a possible destabilizing effect in the longer term.

Despite these issues, Australia's defense planning remains well- tailored to the realities of our regional strategic situation. Such tensions as do exist have little potential for negative impact on Australia, as for the most part they are local matters. This is not to suggest there is cause for complacency or for reducing Australia's operational capabilities. As we integrate further with the other nations of our region, we have a significant role to play in helping ensure regional peace and stability by providing a stable, secure southern front.

The Defense Force that we have established as a result of the principles laid down in the 1987 White Paper and implemented through the 1991 Force Structure Review provides us with the means to play that role in the context of Australia's defense policy of self-reliance. That policy is not an inflexible one. The Federal Government and Defense organization monitor developments continually and, should a need be perceived, adapt strategic guidance accordingly. Last year the strategic guidance document, Australia's Strategic Planning in the 1990s, was publicly released. This year a new strategic planning document is being prepared, which will take further account of post-Cold War developments, including the increase in global regional tensions.

The Government's defense policy will be further fleshed out over the rest of the decade as the large-scale capital acquisition projects, provided for in the Force Structure Review, come on line. This year, for example, the first of the Collins Class submarines will be launched, providing a substantial improvement to our naval resources. It is set to play a key role in the surveillance activities fundamental to our achieving our defense policy aims.

The Anzac ship project, the Jindalee Over-the-Horizon Radar Network, the relocation of key army units to the far north and the completion of the string of northern air-bases are only some of the other projects that will come on line before the end of the decade, developing and fulfilling the plans that were enunciated in the Force Structure and other defense reviews. Defense is also engaging comprehensively with our regional neighbors. The range of activities and consultations which take place already is impressive. For example, this year will see high-level official visits from Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines; bilateral and combined naval exercises with Indonesia and other regional countries and significant training exchanges of military officers between Australia and other regional States.

Other initiatives, such as the opening of facilities for the Republic of Singapore Air Force at RAAF [Royal Australian Air Force] Pearce in Western Australia, will also move ahead this year. We will continue to work with our regional partners on ways and means of developing and enhancing security dialogues, as well as maintaining the close links we have with our traditional allies, the United States and New Zealand.

Defense Industry has an increasing part to play in the development of regional defense cooperation and mutual activity. The government's policy on defense industry, released late last year, sets out a blueprint both for the relationship between defense industry and Defense in Australia and for the further development of defense industry cooperative activities with regional countries. An important forum for this will be provided by the LIMA 93 International Defense Industry Exhibition to be held in Malaysia in December. The large-scale activity that Defense is undertaking, both domestically and regionally, is added to by the unprecedented involvement of ADF [Australian Defense Force] personnel in United Nations peacekeeping activities overseas.

One of the challenges facing us will be the management of Australian participation in such activities. While we will not always maintain the present level of commitment of troops, all indications are that UN peacekeeping will be an increasingly significant factor in global security thinking. We have demonstrated through our involvement in the Gulf War, through our continuing participation in the multilateral task force in the Gulf and through our commitments of troops to Cambodia, Somalia, the Western Sahara, and Afghanistan that we have the capability to make important contributions to these UN efforts from within the force structure that has been developed in the past several years. UN peacekeeping will provide challenges and questions for Australia and the global community for some time. We need to assess when Australian participation might be appropriate and at what level, the command and control arrangements and the definition of peacekeeping as opposed to peacemaking operations.

We are also concerned to see the UN streamline the mechanisms by which its peacekeeping activities are planned, funded, and carried out. The Defense organization will be faced with considerable challenges meeting the demands of the changes and new projects it will be managing over this year and to the end of the century. The prospect is an exciting one. With the solid policy framework the Government has set in place during the past few years, as well as the significant enhancements to our equipment and highly skilled personnel in both the ADF and the Department of Defense, the tools are in place to see these challenges met in a way that is in the best interests of the nation as a responsible regional partner.

Tonga

Russian Satellites Used for Asia Coverage

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[By Michael Field]

[Text] Nuku'alofa, July 5 (AFP)—The tiny Pacific kingdom of Tonga was Monday just two weeks away from completing a world coup by using Russian satellites to run Asian-Pacific services against dominant telecommunications player Intelsat. Tongasat, the kingdom's satellite agency, said a domestic Russian satellite was being moved into position near the equator to provide coverage from Iran and India to Hawaii and from Japan to Australia and New Zealand. Tongasat partner, Rimsat of Fort Wayne, Indiana, will in September see its new Siberian-made satellite put into orbit, with two more satellites following at six month intervals, leaving Tonga with four key satellites over Asia in 15 months.

The move comes five years after Tonga sparked a bitter row by claiming its full 16-slot entitlement of critical equatorial geostationary orbits. The International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium (Intelsat) had said there was a gentlemen's agreement among members that nations only take up slots they actually need. In negotiations with the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB), Tongasat reached a deal to use six slots.

Tongasat managing director Matt Nilson, a former senior Intelsat employee, told AFP on Monday that Tongasat will be the only viable alternative to Intelsat in Asia-Pacific-Australasian zones until at least 1996. He claimed it would also be significantly better than Indonesia's Palapa service, because Tongasat will cover Hawaii while Palapa does not.

Nilson said rates would be 25 percent cheaper than Intelsat, without counting the charges each individual nation's Intelsat franchise operator bills users. Cheaper rates would be possible in spite of Intelsat and Tongasat being in an apparent sellers market, with the Asia-Pacific region in need of an estimated 50 more satellite transponders.

Nilson agreed Tongasat had benefitted from the end of the Cold War, but said Tonga had made initial approaches to the then Soviet Union in 1990 and had found a receptive audience.

In the subsequent collapse, Rimsat and another Tongasat partner, Colorado-based Unicom, found Moscow's Glavkosmos willing to negotiate. A mixed finance package, using Asian investors, and leases on Russian satellites from Glavkosmos, followed.

Nilson said the first of the Russian satellites was being moved into a position 134 degrees east near the equator, just east of the Philippines. The custom-launched satellite would be positioned at 130 degrees east. He declined to provide specific details of service users, but said "obviously we have a lot of different clients now that this is coming into place quite quickly."

There were no technical problems using Russian gear, he said.

"We've had the very best technical experts look at their satellites and in many cases their reliability exceeds that of the best western satellites," Nilsons said, adding the best testimonial to their reliability was that Intelsat was also looking at them.

When Tongasat first emerged, Nilson and the organisation attracted fierce criticism from Intelsat, but he said Intelsat apparently accepts that Tongasat is in competition. Earlier, Nilson had said Tongasat offered the only "true regional communications satellite system."

In a presentation to the South Pacific Commission, he said Tongasat offers services "impossible to be economically provided via Intelsat or any other domestic system that might serve partial or sub-regions of Asia-Pacific."